I

1 [ša nagba īmuru i]šdī māti 1
[He who saw the Deep, the] foundation of the country,
2 [alkakāti īd]û kalāma ŋass[u] 2
[who knew all ways], was wise in everything!
3 [gilgāmeš ša n]agba īmuru išdī mā[ti] 3
[Gilgameš, who] saw the Deep, the foundation of the country,
4 [alkakāt]i īdû kalāma ŋas[su] 4
[who] knew [all ways], was wise in everything!
5 [iŋī]ṭ-ma mitŋāriš par[akkī] 5
[He explored] everywhere the seats [of power,]
6 [napŋ]ar nēmeqi ša kalāmi ī[de] 6
he [knew] the totality of wisdom about everything.
7 [ni]ṣirta īmur-ma katimta ipte 7
He saw the secret and uncovered the hidden,
8 ubla ṭēma ša lām abūbi 8
he brought back a message from the antediluvian age.
9 [u]rŋa rūqta illikam-ma aniŋ u šupšuŋ 9
He came a distant road and was weary but granted rest,
10 [šak]in ina narî kalu mānaŋti 10
all (his) labours [were] set down on a tablet of stone.
11 uppiš dūra ša uruk supūri 11
He built the wall of Uruk-the-Sheepfold,
12 ša ayakki qudduši šutummi elli 12
of holy Eanna, the pure storehouse.
13 amur dūršu ša kīma qê nipš[u] 13
See its wall which is like a strand of wool,
14 itaplas samītašu ša lā umaššalu mamma 14
view its parapet which nobody can replicate!
15 ṣabat-ma simmilta ša ultu ullânu 15
Take the stairway that has been there since ancient times,
16 qitrub ana ayakki šubat ištar 16
and draw near to Eanna, the seat of Ištar,
17 ša šarru arkû lā umaššalu mamma 17
that no later king can ever replicate.
18 elī-ma ina muŋŋi dūri ša uruk itallak 18
Go up on to the wall of Uruk and walk around,
19 temmēna ŋīṭ-ma libitta ṣubbi 19
survey the foundation platform, inspect the brickwork!
20 šumma libittašu lā agurrat 20
(See) if its brickwork is not kiln-fired brick,
21 u uššīšu lā iddû sebet muntalkū 21
and if the Seven Sages did not lay its foundations!
22 [šār] ālu šār kirâtu šār essû pitir bīt ištar 22
[One šār is] city, one šār date-grove, one šār is clay-pit, half a šār the temple of Ištar:
23 šalāšat šār u pitir uruk tamšīŋu 23
[three šār] and a half, Uruk, (its) measurement.
24 [pitē-ma] tupšenna ša erēni 24
[Open] the tablet-box of cedar,
25 [puṭṭe]r ŋargallīšu ša siparri 25
[release] its clasps of bronze!
26 [pitē-m]a bāba ša niṣirtīšu 26
[Open] the lid of its secret,
27 [išâ]m-ma ṭuppi uqnî šitassi 27
[lift] up the tablet of lapis lazuli and read out
28 [mimm]û gilgāmeš ittallaku kalu marṣāti 28
all the misfortunes, all that Gilgameš went through!
29 [šūt]ur eli šarrī šanuʾʾudu bēl gatti 29
Surpassing all (other) kings, hero endowed with a superb physique,
30 [qa]rdu lillid uruk rīmu muttakpu 30
brave native of Uruk, butting wild bull!
31 [i]llak ina pāni ašarēdu 31
Going at the fore he was the leader,
32 arka illak-(ma) tukulti aŋŋīšu 32
going also at the rear, the trust of his brothers!
33 kibru dannu ṣulūl ummānīšu 33
A mighty bank, the protection of his troops,
34 agû ezzu muʾabbit dūr abni 34

a violent flood-wave that smashes a stone wall!
35 rīmu ša lugalbanda gilgāmeš gitmālu emūqī 35
Wild bull of Lugalbanda, Gilgameš, perfect of strength,
36 ēniq arḫi ṣīrti (ša) rīmat-ninsun 36
suckling of the exalted cow, Wild-Cow Ninsun!
37 šīḫu gilgāmeš gitmālu rašubbu 37
Gilgameš so tall, perfect and terrible,
38 pētû nērebēti ša ḫursānī 38
who opened passes in the mountains;
39 ḫērû būrī ša kišād šadî 39
who dug wells on the hill-flanks,
40 ēbir ayyabi tâmati rapašti adi ṣīt šamsi 40
and crossed the ocean, the wide sea, as far as the sunrise;
41 ḫāyyiṭ kibrāti muštaʾâ balāṭi 41
who scoured the world-regions ever searching for life,
42 kāšid dannussu ana ūta-napišti rūqi 42
and reached by his strength Ūta-napišti the Far-Away;
43 mutēr māḫāzī ana ašrīšunu ša uḫalliqu abūbu 43
who restored the cult-centres that the Deluge destroyed,
44 mukīn parṣī ana nišī apâti 44
and established the proper rites for the human race!
45 mannu ša ittīšu iššannanu‡ ana šarrūti 45
Who is there that can be compared with him in kingly status,
46 u kī gilgāmeš iqabbû anākū-ma šarru 46
and can say like Gilgameš, ‘It is I am the king’?
47 gilgāmeš ultu ūm iʾʾaldu nabi šumšu 47
Gilgameš was his name from the day he was born,
48 šittāšu ilum-ma šulultašu amēlūtu 48
two-thirds of him god but a third of him human.
49 ṣalam pagrīšu bēlet-ilī uṣṣir 49
Bēlet-ilī drew the shape of his body,
50 ulteṣbi gattašu nudim[mud] 50
Nudimmud brought his form to perfection.
51 [… l]āna šaruḫ […] 51
[Powerful of] body, majestic of [beauty,]
(A newly discovered fragment confirms the overlap of two lines in line-numeration reported as possible in the edition (George, 2003: 540–541): see Maul, 2014: 156 on i 52. Ll. 55–6 in the edition are thus the same as 53–4.)
52 [… l]āna ištēššeret ina ammati [lānšu] 52
[he was large of] stature, eleven cubits [tall.]
53 [erbe ina ammati] birīt [tulêšu] 53
[Four] cubits was the width of his chest,
54 nikkas šēpšu mišil nindan purīssu 54
A triple cubit was his foot, half a rod his leg.
55 šediš ammat birīt p[urīdīšu] 55
Six cubits was [his] stride,
56 [šalāš am]mat ašaritti š[a lē]tīšu 56
[three] cubits the curls at his [cheeks.]
57 ṭarrā lētāšu kīma ša [uqnâti] 57
His cheeks were bearded, (dark as [gleaming]) lapis lazuli,
58 itqī pērtīšu uḫtann[abā kīma nissaba] 58
the locks of his hair growing [thickly as Nissaba’s.]
59 ina šiāḫīšu gitmālu lal[êšu] 59
[As] he grew up he was perfect in [his] beauty,
60 ina simat erṣeti du[mmuq] 60
by human standards [he was] very handsome.
61 ina supūri ša uruk šū itt[allak] 61
He goes [about] in the sheepfold of Uruk,
62 ugdaššar rīmāniš šaqû rē[ša] 62
lording it like a wild bull, [head] held high.
63 ul īši šāninam-ma tebû kakkū[šu] 63
He has not any equal, [his] weapons being ready,
64 ina pukki‡ tebû rūʾū[šu] 64
[his] companions are kept on their feet by the ball.
65 ūtaddarū eṭlūtu ša uruk ina kuk[itti] 65
The young men of Uruk are wrongfully vexed,
66 ul umaš[šar] gilgāmeš māra ana a[bīšu] 66
Gilgameš lets no son go free to [his] father.
67 [urr]a u [mū]ša ikaddir šēr[iš] 67

Day and night he behaves with fierce arrogance,
68 [gilgā]meš š[arru? (…) nišī rapšāti?]
[King] Gilgameš, [who guides the numerous people,]
69 šū rēʾ[ûm]-ma ša uruk sup[ūri]
he who is shepherd of Uruk-the-Sheepfold!
70 ul umaš[šar gilgāmeš mārta ana] ummī[ša]
[Gilgameš] lets no [daughter go free to her] mother,
71 [šū? rīmšinā]-ma? šina arḫātu
[He is their herdsman,] they are [the] cows;
72 taz[zimtašina …]
[their] complaint […]
73 gašru [šūpû mūdû …]
‘[Powerful, pre-eminent], expert, [and mighty,]
74 [ul] umaššar [gilgāmeš ba]tulta an[a mutīša]
[Gilgamesh] lets [no] girl go free to [her bride groom.]’
75 mārat qur[ādi ḫīra]t e[ṭli]
The warrior’s daughter, the [young man’s bride,]
76 tazzimtašina i[štenem]mâ iš[tar]
the goddess Ishtar was listening to their complaint.
77 [il]ū šamāmī bēl zikr[i]
The gods of heaven, lords of initiative,
78 […] … […]
[called out to the god Anu] …:
79 tultabšī-mā rīma kadra [in]a uruk supūri
‘Have you bred, indeed, a savage wild bull in Uruk-the-Sheepfold?
80 ul īši šāninam-ma tebû kakkūšu
He has not any equal, his weapons being ready,
81 ina pukki šutbû rūʾûšu
his companions are kept on their feet by the ball.
82 uštādir [eṭlūti ša uruk] ina kukitti
He has wrongfully vexed [the young men of Uruk,]
83 ul umaššar gilgāmeš māra ana abīšu
Gilgameš lets no son go free to his father.
84 urra u mū[ša ikaddir] šēriš
Day and [night he behaves] with fierce [arrogance,]
85 šū rēʾûm-ma ša uruk supūri
he who is shepherd of Uruk-the-Sheepfold!
86 gilgāmeš [nāqissina ša nišī rapš]āti
Gilgameš, [the herdsman of the] numerous [people,]
87 šū rēʾûšinā-ma u … […šin]a?
he is their herdsman and they are … […],
88 [g]ašru šūpû mūdû […]
powerful, pre-eminent, expert, [and mighty,]
89 [u]l umaššar gilgāmeš batulta ana m[utīša]
Gilgameš lets no girl go free to [her] bride-[groom.]’
90 [m]ārat‡ qurādi ḫīrat e[ṭli]
The warrior’s daughter, the young [man’s] bride,
91 tazzimtašina ištenemme [ānu]
[Anu] was listening to their complaint.
92 arūru issû rabīta
They summoned Aruru, the great one:
93 attī arūru tabnî amēla
‘You, O Aruru, created [man:]
94 eninna binî zikiršu
now create what he suggests!
95 ana ūm libbīšu lū maḫ[ir]
Let him be equal to the storm of his heart,
96 lištannanū-ma uruk liš[tapšiḫ]
let them rival each other and so let Uruk be rested.’
97 arūru annīta ina šemêša
When Aruru heard this,
98 zikra ša āni ibtani ina libbīša
she fashioned Anu’s idea in her heart.
99 arūru imtasi qātīša
Aruru washed her hands,
100 ṭīda iktariṣ ittadi ina ṣē[ri]
she took a pinch of clay, she threw it down in the wild.
101 ina ṣēri enkīdu ibtani qurāda
In the wild she created Enkidu, the hero,

102 ilitti qūlti‡ kiṣir ninurta 102
an offspring of silence, knit strong by Ninurta.
103 šuʾʾur šārta kalu zumrīšu 103
All his body is matted with hair,
104 uppuš‡ pēreta kīma sinništi 104
he is adorned with tresses like a woman:
105 itqī pērtīšu uḫtannabā kīma nissaba 105
the locks of his hair grow as thickly as Nissaba’s,
106 lā īde nišī‡ u mātam-ma 106
he knows not at all a people nor even a country.
107 (u) lubušta‡ labiš kīma šakkan 107
He was clad in a garment like Šakkan’s,
108 itti ṣabâtim-ma ikkala šammī 108
feeding on grass with the very gazelles.
109 itti būli mašqâ īteppir 109
Jostling at the water-hole with the herd,
110 itti nammaššê mê iṭīb libbašu 110
he enjoyed the water with the animals.
111 ṣayyādu ḫābilu amēlu 111
A hunter, a trapper-man,
112 ina pūt mašqî šâšu uštamḫiršu 112
came face to face with him by the water-hole.
113 ištēn ūma šanâ u šalša ina pūt mašqî uštamḫiršu 113
One day, a second and a third, he came face to face with him by the water-hole.
114 īmuršū-ma ṣayyādu uštaḫrirū panūšu 114
The hunter saw him and his expression froze,
115 [š]ū u būlīšu bītuššu īrub-ma 115
[he] and his herds – he went back to his lair.
116 [innad]ir ušḫarrir iqūl-ma 116
[He was] troubled, he grew still, he grew silent,
117 […] libbašu panūšu arpū 117
his mood [was unhappy], his face clouded over.
118 i[bašši n]issatu ina karšīšu 118
There [was] sorrow in his heart,
119 ana [ālik urḫi r]ūqūti panūšu mašlū 119
his face was like [one who has travelled] distant [roads.]
120 ṣayyā[du pâšu] īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkar[a ana abīšu] 120
The hunter opened [his mouth] to speak, saying [to his father:]
121 abī ištēn eṭlu ša ill[ikannâši] 121
‘My father, [there is a] certain fellow who has come [to us,]
122 in[a māti d]ān emūq[ī īšu] 122
Mightiest in the [land, he possesses] strength,
123 [kīma kiṣri] ša āni dunnun[ā emūqāšu] 123
[his strength] is as mighty [as a lump of rock] from the sky.
124 [ittanalla]k ina muḫḫi šadî ka[yyānam-ma] 124
[He wanders always] over the hills,
125 [kayyānam-m]a itti būli [ammaršu] 125
[always] with the herd [do I see him.]
126 [kayyānam-ma šē]pāšu ina pūt mašqî [šaknā] 126
[Always] his feet [are found] by the water-hole,
127 [palḫākū-ma u]l aṭeḫḫâ ana š[âšu] 127
[I am afraid and so] I do not go up to him.
128 [umtalli bū]rī ša uḫarrû [anāku] 128
[He has filled in the] pits that I dug,
129 [uttassiḫ n]uballīya ša ušn[īlu] 129
[he has uprooted] my snares that I laid.
130 [uštēli ina qātīya] būla nammaššâ ša ṣē[ri] 130
[He has set free from my grasp] the herd, the animals of the wild,
131 ul inaddinanni ana epēš ṣēri 131
[he will not let] me do the work of the wild.’
132 [abūšu pâšu īpuš-ma iqab]bi izakkara ana ṣayyādi 132
[His father opened his mouth to speak], saying to the hunter:
133 [alik mārī ana pirʾi ša libb]i uruk gilgāmeš 133
[Go, my son, to] Gilgamesh, [the offshoot sprung from] Uruk’s [midst!]
134 […] … elu ṣērīšu 134
[Make your way] into his presence,
135 [kīma kiṣri ša āni dunn]unā emūqāšu 135
his strength [is as mig]hty [as a lump of rock from the sky.]
136 [ṣabat urḫa ina libbi uruk šuku]n pānīka 136

[Take the road, set] your face [toward Uruk,]
	137	[…] … emūq amēli	137
[…] the strength of a man!
	138	[alik mārī ittīka ḫarimta šamḫat] urū-ma	138
[Go, my son], bring [with you Šamhat the harlot,]
	139	[…] kīma danni	139
[her allure is a match] for even the mighty!
	140	[enūma būlu isan]ni[qu ana] mašqî	140
[When the herd comes] down [to] the water-hole,
	141	[šī lišḫuṭ lubūš]īšā-ma [liptâ kuz]ubša	141
[she should strip off] her [clothing to reveal] her charms.
	142	[imma]ršī-ma iṭeḫḫ[â ana šâši]	142
[He will see] her and will go up [to] her,
	143	inakkiršu būlšu [ša irbû eli ṣē]rīšu	143
his herd will be estranged from him, [though he grew up] in its presence.
	144	ana milki ša abīšu […] … […]	144
[Paying heed] to the advice of his father,
	145	ṣayyādu ittallak […]	145
the hunter went off, [set out on the journey.]
	146	iṣbat urḫa ina libbi uruk išta[kan pānīšu]	146
He took the road, he [set his face] toward Uruk,
	147	[a]na šar[ri? gil]gā[meš ušt]ennâ têrētīšu	147
[to] the king, Gilgameš, he repeated his instructions:
	148	ištēn eṭ[l]u ša [illika]nnâši	148
‘There is a certain fellow who [has come] to us,
	149	ina māti dān e[mūqī īš]i	149
mightiest in the land, he possesses [strength,]
	150	kīma kiṣri ša āni dunnun[ā emūqāšu]	150
[his strength is] as mighty as a lump of rock from the sky.
	151	ittanallak ina muḫḫi šadî kayyānam-ma	151
He wanders always over the hills,
	152	kayyānam-ma itti būli ammaršu	152
Always with the herd do I see him.
	153	kayyānam-ma šēpāšu ina pūt mašqî šaknā	153
Always his feet are found by the water-hole,
	154	palḫākū-ma ul aṭeḫḫâ [ana š]âšu	154
I am afraid and so I do not go up to him.
	155	umtalli būrī ša uḫar[rû an]āku	155
He has filled in the pits that I dug,
	156	uttassiḫ nuballīya [ša ušnī]lu	156
he has uprooted my snares [that I laid.]
	157	uštēli ina qātīya būla nammašš[â ša] ṣēri	157
He has released from my grasp the herds, the animals [of the] wild,
	158	ul inaddinanni ana epēš ṣēri	158
he will not let me do the work [of the] wild.’
	159	gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana ṣayyādi	159
Gilgameš said to him, to the hunter:
	160	alik ṣayyādu ittīka ḫarimta šamḫat urū-ma	160
‘Go, O hunter, take with you Šamḫat the harlot.
	161	enūma būlu isa[nniq]u ana mašqî	161
When the herd comes down to the water-hole,
	162	šī lišḫuṭ lubūšīš[ā-ma lip]tâ kuzubša	162
she should strip off her clothing to reveal her charms.
	163	immaršī-ma iṭ[e]ḫḫâ ana šâši	163
He will see her and will go up to her,
	164	inakkiršu būlšu š[a i]rbû eli ṣērīšu	164
his herd will be estranged from him, though he grew up in its presence.’
	165	illik ṣayyādu ittīšu ḫarimta šamḫat urū-ma	165
Off went the hunter, he took with him Šamḫat the harlot,
	166	iṣṣabtū urḫa uštēšerū ḫarrāna	166
they set out on the road, they started the journey.
	167	ina šalši ūmi ina eqel adanni iktaldūni	167
On the third day they arrived at the destination;
	168	ṣayyādu u ḫarimtu ana ušbīšunu ittašbūni	168
the hunter and the harlot sat down to wait.
	169	ištēn ūma šanâ ūma ina pūt mašqî ittašbū	169
One day, a second day, they sat by the water-hole,
	170	ikšuda būlu mašqâ išatti	170
(then) the herd arrived to drink at the water-hole.

171 ikšuda nammaššû mê iṭīb libbašu 171
The animals arrived, they enjoyed the water,
172 u šū enkīdu ilittašu šadûm-ma 172
and also Enkidu himself, whose birth-place was the hills.
173 itti ṣabâtim-ma ikkala šammī 173
Feeding on grass with the very gazelles,
174 itti būli mašqâ īteppir 174
jostling at the water-hole with the herd,
175 itti nammaššê mê iṭīb libbašu 175
he enjoyed the water with the animals.
176 īmuršū-ma šamḫat lullâ amēla 176
(Then) Šamḫat saw him, the man-savage,
177 eṭla šaggāšâ ša qabalti ṣēri 177
a murderous fellow from the midst of the wild.
178 annû šū šamḫat rummî kirimmīki 178
‘This is he, Šamḫat! Uncradle your bosom;
179 ūrki pitê-ma kuzubki lilqe 179
bare your sex so he may take in your charms!
180 ē tašḫutī leqê napīssu 180
Do not show fear, take in his scent!
181 immarkī-ma iṭeḫḫâ ana kâši 181
He will see you and he will come up to you.
182 lubūšīki muṣṣî-ma elīki lišlal 182
Spread your clothing so he may lie on you,
183 epšīšū-ma lullâ šipir sinništi 183
treat the man to the work of a woman!
184 inakkiršu būlšu ša irbû ina ṣērīšu 184
his herd will be estranged from him, though he grew up in its presence.
185 dādūšu‡ iḫabbubū‡ eli ṣērīki 185
His ‘love’ will caress and embrace you,
186 urtammi šamḫat dīdīša 186
Šamḫat let loose her skirts,
187 ūrša iptē-ma kuzubša ilqe 187
she bared her sex and he took in her charms.
188 ul išḫut ilteqe napīssu 188
She showed no fear, she took in his scent:
189 lubūšīša umaṣṣī-ma elīšu išlal 189
she spread her clothing and he lay upon her.
190 īpussū-ma lullâ šipir sinništi 190
She treated the man to the work of a woman,
191 dādūšu iḫbubū eli ṣērīša 191
his ‘love’ caressed and embraced her.
192 šeššet urrī (u) sebe mušâti enkīdu tebī-ma šamḫat ireḫḫi‡ 192
For six days and seven nights Enkidu, erect, did couple with Šamḫat.
193 ultu išbû lalâša 193
After he was sated with her delights,
194 pānīšu ištakan ana‡ ṣēr būlīšu 194
he turned his face toward his herd.
195 īmurāšū-ma enkīdu irappudā ṣabâtu 195
The gazelles saw Enkidu and they started running,
196 būl ṣēri ittesi ina zumrīšu 196
the animals of the wild moved away from his person.
197 ultaḫḫi enkīdu ullula pagaršu 197
Enkidu had defiled his body so pure,
198 ittazizzā birkāšu ša illika‡ būlšu 198
his legs stood still, though his herd was on the move.
199 umtaṭṭi enk[īdu u]l kī ša pāni lasānšu 199
Enkidu was diminished, his running was not as before,
200 u šū īši u[zna] rapaš ḫasīsa 200
but he had reason, he [was] wide of understanding.
201 itūram-ma ittašab ina šapal ḫarimti 201
He came back and sat down at the feet of the harlot,
202 ḫarimta inaṭṭala pānīša 202
watching the harlot, (observing) her features.
203 u ša ḫ[arim]tu iqabbû išemmâ uznāšu 203
Then his ears heard what the [harlot] was speaking,
204 [ḫarimtu a]na šâšū-ma izakkara ana enkīdu 204
[as the harlot] said to him, to Enkidu:

205 [dam]qāta enkīdu kīma ili tabašši 205
‘You are handsome, Enkidu, you are just like a god,
206 ammīni itti nammaššê tarappud ṣēra 206
why with the animals do you range through the wild?
207 alka luttarrūka ana libbi uruk supūri 207
Come, I will lead you to Uruk-the-Sheepfold,
208 ana bīti elli mūšab ānu (u ištar) 208
to the sacred temple, the dwelling of Anu and Ištar!
208a […]-ma ana libbi uruk supūri 208a
[…] … into Uruk the sheepfold,
208b [ana ayakk]i qudduši mūšabi ša ištar 208b
[to] holy [E-anna], the dwelling of Ištar.
209 ašar gilgāmeš gitmālu emūqī 209
where Gilgameš is perfect in strength,
210 (u) kī rīmi ugdaššaru eli eṭlūti 210
and lords it over the menfolk like a wild bull!
211 ītamâššum-ma magir qabâša 211
She talked to him and what she said found favour,
212 mūdû libbašu išeʾʾâ ibra 212
his heart (now) wise was seeking a friend.
213 enkīdu ana ŝâšī-ma izakkara ana ḫarimti 213
Enkidu said to her, to the harlot:
214 alkī‡ šamḫat qirênni yâši 214
‘Come, Šamḫat, take me along
215 ana bīti elli qudduši mūšab ānu ištar 215
to the sacred temple, the holy dwelling of Anu and Ištar,
216 ašar gilgāmeš gitmālu emūqī 216
where Gilgameš is perfect in strength,
217 u kī rīmi ugdaššaru eli eṭlūti 217
and lords it over the menfolk like a wild bull!
218 anāku lugrīšum-ma dān? … 218
I will challenge him, for [my strength] is mighty,
219 [lultar]riḫ? ina libbi uruk anākū-mi dannu 219
[I will vaunt] myself in Uruk, (saying) “I am the mightiest!”
220 […] … šīmata? unakkar 220
[there] I shall change the way things are ordered,
221 [ša in]a ṣēri iʾʾaldu dān emūqī išu 221
[the one] born in the wild is mighty, he has strength.’
222 [nišū?] līmurā pānīka 222
‘Let [the people] see your face,
223 … […] ibaššû anāku lū īde 223
[…that] exists I know indeed.
224 a[lik] enkīdu a[na uru]k supūri 224
Go, Enkidu, to Uruk-the-Sheepfold,
225 a[šar eṭl]ūtu uzzuḫū nēbeḫī 225
where the young men are girt with waistbands.
226 ūm[išam-m]a [… š]akin isinnu 226
Every day [in Uruk] a festival is held,
227 aša[r urt]aṣṣanū alû 227
where the drums are repeatedly beaten,
228 u a[rd]āti šūsumā binûta 228
and the harlots are comely of figure,
229 kuzba [zu]ʾʾunā [mal]â rīšāti 229
graced with charm, full of joy.
230 ina mayyāl mūši ušēṣû rabûtu 230
Even the aged they rouse from their beds!
231 enkīd[u ša lā] īdû balāṭa 231
O Enkidu, [who do not (yet)] know life –
232 lukallimka gilgāmeš ḫaddiʾa amēla 232
I will show you Gilgameš, the man so merry,
233 amur šâšu uṭul pānīšu 233
look at him, regard his face!
234 eṭlūta bani bālta īši 234
He is fair in manhood, he has dignified bearing,
235 zuʾʾuna k[uz]ba kalu zumrīšu 235
his whole person is graced with charm.
236 danna emūqa elīka īši 236
He has a strength more mighty than you,
237 lā ṣālilu ša urra u mūša 237

he is unsleeping by day and by night.
238 enkīdu nukkera šēretka‡ 238
O Enkidu, get rid of your sinful intention,
239 gilgāmeš šamaš irāmšu 239
as for Gilgameš Šamaš loves him.
240 anu ellil u ea urappišū uzunšu 240
Anu, Enlil and Ea broadened his wisdom:
241 lām tallika ultu šadîm-ma 241
even before you came from the uplands,
242 gilgāmeš ina libbi uruk inaṭṭala šunātīka 242
Gilgameš in Uruk was having dreams about you: –
243 itbē-ma gilgāmeš šunata ipaššar izakkara ana ummīšu 243
Gilgameš arose to reveal a dream, saying to his mother:
244 ummī šunat aṭṭulu mušītīya 244
“O mother, the dream that I saw in the course of this night –
245 ibšûnim-ma kakkabū šamê 245
the stars of the heavens appeared before me,
246 kīma kiṣri ša āni imtaqquta‡ elu ṣērīya 246
like a lump of rock from the sky one fell towards me.
247 aššīšū-ma dān elīya 247
I picked one up but it was too much for me,
248 ultablakkissū-ma ul eleʾʾe nussu 248
I kept trying to roll it but I could not dislodge it.
249 uruk mātu izzaz elī[šu] 249
The land of Uruk was standing around [it],
250 [mātu puḫḫurat] ina muḫḫīšu 250
[the land was gathered] about it.
251 [īteppir umm]ānu e[li ṣ]ērī[šu] 251
A crowd [was jostling] before [it],
252 [eṭlūtu uk]tammarū elīšu 252
[the menfolk were] thronging around it.
253 [kī šerri la]ʾî unaššaqū šēp[īšu] 253
They were kissing its feet [like a little] baby’s;
254 [arāmšū-ma kī]ma aššati elīšu aḫbub 254
[I loved it] like a wife and I caressed and embraced it.
255 [aššâššū-ma a]ttadīšu ina šaplī[ki] 255
[I picked it up and] set it down at [your] feet,
256 [u attī tult]amaḫ<ḫa>rīšu ittīy[a] 256
[and you, you] made it my equal.”
257 [ummi gilgām]eš emqet mūdât kalāma īde izakkar ana mārīša‡
257
[The mother of Gilgameš] was clever, she was wise, she knew everything, she said to her son;
258 [rīmat-ninsun] emqet mūdât kalāma īde izakkar ana gilgāmeš
258
[Wild-Cow] Ninsun was clever, she was wise, she knew everything, she said to Gilgameš:
259 ibšûnikka kakkabū šamê 259
“The stars of heaven [appeared] before you,
260 [kī]ma kiṣri ša āni imtaqqut elu ṣērīya 260
[like a] lump of rock from the sky one fell toward you.
261 taššīšū-ma dān elīka 261
You picked it up but it was too much for you,
262 tultablakkissu ul teleʾʾi nussu 262
you kept trying to roll it but you could not dislodge it.
263 taššâššū-ma taddīšu ina šaplīya 263
You picked it up and set it down at my feet,
264 u anāku ul[ta]mḫiraššu‡ ittī[ka] 264
and I, I made it your equal,
265 tarāmšūma kīma aššati taḫabbub‡ elīšu‡ 265
you loved it like a wife, caressing and embracing it.
266 illakakkum-ma dannu tappû mušēzib ibri 266
A mighty companion will come to you, the saviour of (his) friend:
267 ina māti dān emūqī īšu 267
he is the mightiest in the land, he has strength,
268 kīma kiṣri ša āni dunnunā emūqāšu 268
his strength is as mighty as a lump of rock from the sky,
269 tarâmšū-ma kīma aššati taḫabbub‡ elīšu‡ 269
You will love him like a wife, caressing and embracing him,
270 šū dannu ušezzeb kâša 270
he, being mighty, [will] often save you.

271 šanīta ītamar šunassu!‡ 271
He saw a second dream,
272 [i]tbē-ma īterub ana pān ištari ummīšu 272
he arose and entered before the goddess, his mother.
273 gilgāmeš ana ŝâšī-ma izakkar ana ummīšū 273
Gilgameš said to her, to his mother,
274 [i]ppunna ummī ātamar šanīta šutta 274
“[And a]gain, O mother, I have seen a second dream.
275 [ina sūqi] ša uruk ribīti 275
[In a street] of Uruk-Main-Street,
276 ḫaṣṣinnu nadī-ma elīšu paḫrū 276
an axe was lying and people were gathered around it.
277 [uru]k mātu izzaz elīšu 277
The land [of Uruk] was standing around it,
278 [mātu puḫ]ḫurat ina muḫḫīšu 278
[the land was] gathered about it.
279 īteppir ummānu eli ṣērīšu 279
[A crowd] was jostling before it,
280 [eṭlūtu uk]tammarū elīšu 280
[the menfolk were] thronging around it.
281 aššâšū-ma attadīšu ina šaplīki 281
I picked it up and set it down at your feet,
282 [arāmš]ū-ma kī aššati elīšu aḫbub 282
[I loved] it like a wife and I caressed and embraced it,
283 [u att]ī tultamaḫrīšu‡ ittīya 283
[and you], you made it my equal.”
284 ummi gilgāmeš emqet mūdât kalāma īde izakkar ana mārīša 284
The mother of Gilgameš was clever, she was wise, she knew everything, she said to her son;
285 [rīmat-ninsun] emqet mūdât kalāma īde izakkar ana gilgāmeš
285
Wild-Cow Ninsun was clever, she was wise, she knew everything, she said to Gilgameš:
286 mārī ḫaṣinnu ša tāmuru amēlu‡ 286
“My son, the axe you saw is a man,
287 tarâmšūma kīma aššati taḫabbub‡ elīšu 287
you will love him like a wife, and will caress and embrace him,
288 u anāku ultamaḫḫaršu‡ ittīka 288
and I, I shall make him your equal.
289 illakakkum-ma dannu tappû mušēzib ibri 289
A mighty companion will come to you, the saviour of (his) friend:
290 ina māti dān emūqī īšu 290
he is the mightiest in the land, he has strength,
291 kīma kiṣri ša āni dunnunā emūqāšu 291
his strength is as mighty as a lump of rock from the sky.”
292 gilgāmeš ana ŝâšī-ma izakkar ana ummīšu 292
Gilgameš said to her, to his mother,
293 [u]mmī ina pī ellil māliki (rabî) limqutam-ma 293
“O mother, by Counsellor Enlil’s command may it befall me!
294 ibra mālika anāku lurši 294
I will acquire a friend, a counsellor,
295 [lur]šīma ibra mālika anāku 295
a friend, a counsellor, [I will] acquire!”
296 [īt]amar šunātīšu 296
[(Thus) he has] seen his dreams.’
297 [ultu?] šamḫat šunāti gilgāmeš ītamâ ana enkīdu 297
[After] Šamḫat told Enkidu the dreams of Gilgameš,
298 [urtaʾ ʾ]amū kilallān 298
the two of [them were making] love together.

II

1 [enkīdu] aš[ib] maḫarša [ittaš]qū? 1
[Enkidu] was sitting before her, […] …
(The text proper begins after a gap of about 25 lines, as calculated from the curvature of MS bb (UrkNB3). Line numbering is provisional accordingly.)
26 … […] 26
… […]
27 … […] 27
… […]
28 nanzi[ḫ nēbeḫa? …] 28

be g[irt with a waistband …!]
29 ammīni itti n[ammaššê tarappud ṣēra] 29
Why [do you roam the wild] with the [animals?]
30 mitluk(u) ramānīšu … […] 30
Taking his own counsel […]
31 ina ṭēmīšū-ma … […] 31
by his own judgement […]
32 mūdû libbašū-ma [išeʾʾâ ibra?] 32
his heart (now) wise [was seeking a friend.]
33 ša šamḫat […] 33
of Šamhat […]
34 ištēn lubūša r[amānša …] 34
The first garment [she put on herself,]
35 u šanâ lubūša šâ[šu ulabbiš?] 35
and with the second garment [she clothed] him.
36 ṣabtassū-ma kīma ili ireddēšu 36
she took him (by the hand), [leading him] like a god,
37 ana gupri ša rēʾî ašar tarbāṣi 37
To the shepherd’s camp, the site of the sheep-pen.
38 rēʾûtu puḫḫurat elīšu 38
The band of shepherds was gathered around him
39 ina ṭēmīšunū-ma ina ramānīšū-ma 39
of their own will and by himself:
40 eṭlu ana gilgāmeš kī mašil lāna 40
‘This fellow — how similar to Gilgameš he is in build,
41 lānu šīḫu naburriš ša[rḫu?] 41
he is tall in stature, majestic as a battlement
42 mindē-ma alid ina šadî 42
For sure he was born in the hills,
variant$_1$: mindē-ma enkīdu ilittašu šadûm-ma
43 kīma kiṣri ša āni dunnunā em[ūqāšu] 43
his strength is as mighty as a lump of rock from the sky.’
44 akala iškunū maḫar[šu] 44
They put bread before [him]
45 šikara iškunū maḫaršu 45
they put ale before him.
46 ul īkul akala enkīdu iptēq idaggal 46
Enkidu did not eat the bread, he looked intently as he viewed (it):
47 [akala ana akāli lā lummud]-ma 47
[how to eat bread he had never] even [been taught,]
48 [šikara ana šatê enkīdu ul] īde 48
[how to drink ale Enkidu did not] know.
49 [ḫarimtu ana šâšū-ma izzakkara ana enk]īdu 49
[The harlot said to him, to] Enkidu,
50 […ni]šī 50
‘[Eat the bread, Enkidu, the staff of the] people,
51 […mā]ti 51
[drink the ale, the destiny of the] land!’
52–53 […] … 52–53
[…] …
(MS X (NinNA1) lacks a further 5 or 6 ll. to the end of its col. i. Probably here are to be placed the ends of the last 7 ll. of col. i of MS k (BabNB2), overlapping with the beginning of MS X (NinNA1), col. ii:)
56 […] … 56
[…] …
57 […] … 57
[…] …
58 […] … 58
[…] …
59 mūdû libbašū-ma … […] … 59
His heart [now wise…]
60 [uttapp]iṣ barbarī-ma l[abbī uktašši]d 60
[he would] massacre wolves and [chase] away [lions.]
61 [nīl]ūnim-ma nāqidū [rab]ûtu 61
[As] the senior herdsmen lay sleeping,
62 [en]kīdu nāqissunū-ma ē[ru amēlu] 62
Enkidu was their herdsman, a [wakeful man.]
63 [ištēn eṭ]lu ana bīt emi? … […] 63
[A certain] fellow [was invited] to a wedding,

64 ina libbi uruk supūri ana … […] 64
[into] Uruk the sheepfold for … […]
65 […] … […] 65
[…] … […]
66 […] … […] 66
[…] … […]
(There follows a gap of perhaps 30 lines or more, near the end of which must be placed MS z (UrkNB1), col. ii:)
a+1′ šarru | [ša uruk | supūri? | …] a+1′
King [of Uruk the sheepfold ...]
a+2′ mutu? | […] a+2′
husband […]
a+3′ u […] a+3′
And […]
a+4′ … […] a+4′
… […]
(Henceforward the line numbering relies on an estimate of 58 lines for col. i of MS X (NinNA1; although the figure is likely to be lower in later columns), and the presence of decimal markers in the margins of the same MS.)
99 […] … […] 99
[…] … […]
100 [ittaziz-m]a ina sūqi ša uru[k supūri] 100
[He stood] in the street of Uruk [the sheepfold.]
101 […] … ibēš dannūtī-ma […] 101
[…] parted, strength […,]
102 iptaras alakta [ša gilgāmeš] 102
he blocked the path [of Gilgameš.]
103 uruk mātu izzaz elī[šu] 103
The land of Uruk was standing [around him,]
104 mātu puḫḫurat [ina muḫḫīšu] 104
the land was gathered [about him.]
105 īteppir ummānu e[li ṣ]ērī[šu] 105
A crowd was jostling before [him,]
106 eṭlūtu uktammarū [elīšu] 106
the menfolk were thronging [around him.]
107 [kī šerri la]ʾî unaššaqū šēp[īšu] 107
They were [kissing his feet] like a little baby’s;
108 ullânum-ma eṭlu … […] 108
already the man … […] …
109 ana išḫara mayyāl […] … […] 109
For Išḫara a bed of […] …
110 ana gilgāmeš kīma ili šaki[šš]u pūḫ[u] 110
for Gilgameš, like a god, a substitute was in place.
111 enkīdu ina bāb bīt emūti iptarik šēpī[šu] 111
Enkidu with [his] feet blocked the doorway of the wedding house,
112 gilgāmeš ana šūrubi ul inaddin 112
not allowing Gilgameš to enter.
113 iṣṣabtū-ma ina bāb bīt emūti 113
They took hold of each other in the doorway of the wedding house,
114 ina sūqi ittegrû rebīt māti 114
they joined combat in the street, the Main-Street-of-the-Land.
115 [si]ppū irūbū igāru inūš 115
The door jambs quaked, the wall shook.
(There follows a gap of a little less than one column.)
162 [ina māti d]ān em[ūqī (īšu)] 162
‘He is the mightiest [in the land, strength he possesses,]
163 [kīma ki]ṣri ša ā[ni dunnunā emūqāšu] 163
[his strength is as mighty as a] lump of rock from the sky,
164 [lān]a šīḫu n[aburriš šarḫu] 164
tall in [stature, majestic as a battlement.]’
165 ummu gilgāmeš pâ[ša īpuš-ma iqabbi] 165
The mother of Gilgameš [opened her] mouth [to speak,]
166 izakkara a[na mārīša] 166
saying to [her son,]
167 rīmat-nin[sun pâša īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkarra ana gilgāmeš] 167
Wild-Cow Ninsun [opened her mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:]
168 mārī […] … […] 168
‘My son, … […]

169 ṣarpiš … […] 169
bitterly you […]
170 … […] 170
… […]
171 […] 171
[…]
172 ṣabtāta … […] 172
You hold […]
173 … ina bābīšu […] 173
… in his gate […]
174 ṣarpiš unamba? […] 174
Bitterly he wails […]
175 ul īši enkīdu [kimta u salāta?] 175
Enkidu does not have [kith and kin]
176 uššurtu pēretu … […] 176
Loose-hanging hair…[…]
177 ina ṣēri alid-ma mamma [ul …] 177
he was born in the wild and [has] no [brother]
178 izzaz enkīdu išm[e qabâša] 178
Enkidu being present, he heard [what she said,]
179 uštaddan-ma itta[šab ibakki] 179
thinking it over, he sat [down weeping.]
180 īnāšu imlâ [dimāti] 180
His eyes filled with [tears,]
181 aḫāšu irmâ emūqī […] 181
his arms fell limp, strength […]
182 iṣṣabtū-ma mitḫāriš […] 182
They took hold of each other and together […]
183 […]-ma qātātīšunu kīma […] 183
they [linked] their hands and like […]
184 [gil]gāmeš … […] 184
Gilgameš … […]
185 [an]a enkīdu amāta izakka[r] 185
[to] Enkidu he said a word, [saying:]
186 [amm]īni ibrī iml[â īnāka dimāti] 186
‘Why, my friend, [did your eyes] fill [with tears,]
187 [aḫ]āka irmâ [emūqī …] 187
your arms fall limp, [strength…?]’
188 [e]nkīdu ana ŝâšū-ma izak[kara ana gilgāmeš] 188
Enkidu said to him, [to Gilgameš:]
189 [i]brī libbī uṣṣarripū … […] 189
My friend, my heart was made to ache…[…]
190 ina dimmatim-ma iru[bbū …] 190
Through sobbing [my legs do] tremble,
191 [īr]ub adīru ana libbīya 191
terror has entered my heart.
192 … […]
193 gilgāmeš pâšu! īpuš-ma iqabbi izak[kara ana enkīdu] 193
Gilgameš opened his mouth to speak, saying to Enkidu:
194 [t]ušā-ma ibrī ana … […] 194
‘As if, my friend, to…[…]
195 … itkupu […] 195
… is imminent […]
196 u nâšī-ma umāšu … […] 196
But as for us, wrestling... […]
197 … ūmī … … […] 197
… him, the days […]
198 … idukku … […] 198
… beside you … […]
199 inannā-ma ibrī … […] 199
So now, my friend, […]
200 […] … ina māti … […] 200
[…] in the land we […]
201 […] … ḫumbāb[a …] 201
[…] … Ḫubaba […]
202 […] … […] 202
[…] … […]
(The remainder of col. iv is lost. When the text resumes in col. v Gilgameš is still speaking)
212 … […]

213 luk[kis? …] 213
let [me cut …]
214 lišbirā […] 214
May they smash […]
215 ašamšât[u …] 215
the whirlwinds […]’
216 enkīdu pâ[šu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš] 216
Enkidu [opened his] mouth [to speak, saying to Gilgameš:]
217 kī ni[llak ibrī ana qišti erēni] 217
‘How can we [go, my friend, to the Forest of Cedar?]
218a aššu šullumi erēni 218a
In order to keep the cedars safe,
219a ana pulḫāti ša nišī išīmšu ellil 219a
Enlil made it his destiny to be the terror of the people:
218b ḫarrānu šī [ul ša alāki] 218b
That journey [is not one for the making,]
219b [amēlu šū ul ša amāri] 219b
[that man is not one for the seeing.]
220 nāṣir qi[šti erēni dān lā sākip] 220
He who guards [the Forest of Cedar is mighty, never resting,]
221 ḫumbāba rigmašu‡ abūbu 221
Ḫumbaba, his voice is the Deluge,
222 pīšu girrum-ma napīssu mūtu 222
his speech is fire, his breath is death.
223 išemmē-ma ana šūši bēr rimmāt qišti 223
He hears his forest’s murmur for sixty leagues;
224 mannu ša urradu ana qištīšu 224
who is there that would venture into his forest?
225 adad ištēn u šū šanû 225
Adad is the first, but he is the second!
226 mannu ša igerrûšu ina igī[gī] 226
Who is there among the Igigi that would oppose him?
227 aššu šullumi erēni 227
In order to keep the cedars safe,
228 ana pulḫāti ša nišī išīmšu ellil 228
Enlil made it his destiny to be the terror of the people.
229 u ārid qištīšu iṣabbassu luʾtu 229
And he who ventures into his forest, feebleness will seize him!’
230 gilgāmeš ana ŝâšū-ma izakka[r ana e]nkīdu 230
Gilgameš opened his mouth to speak, saying to Enkidu:
variant₁: gilgāmeš pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi [izakkara ana enkīdu]
231 al[ka …] 231
‘Come, […]
232 ana mīni ibrī pisnuqiš taqabbi 232
Why, my friend, do you speak like a weakling?
233 u pīka irmâm-ma tulammin libbī 233
With your feeble talk you have vexed my heart!
234 amēlūtu manû ūmūša 234
As for man, [his] days are numbered,
235 mimmû īteppušu š[ārum-ma] 235
all that ever he did is but [wind.]
236 … ul ibaššâ … […] 236
… do not exist […]
237 taʾʾaldam-ma tarbâ i[na ṣēr]i 237
You were born and grew up [in the wild.]
238 išḫuṭūkā-ma labbū k[alāma tīde?] 238
Lions attacked you, [you experienced all,]
239 u eṭlūtu iʾbutū‡ [maḫarka] 239
grown men, too, fled [from your presence.]
240 mūdû libbaka tuqu[nta amir?] 240
Your heart, well tried, [is tested in] combat;
241 alka ibrī ana kiškat[tî lumūḫa?] 241
come, my friend, [I will go] to the forge!’
242 [ana ki]škattî [imūḫū? …] 242
[To the] forge [they went, …]
243 […] … […] 243
[…] … […]
(There follows in MS bb (UrkNB2) a gap to the bottom of the column, where the text resumes with MSS X₁ (NinNA1a), col. v // e (UrkNB3), col. vi. If we are right to conflate this fragment with

the text of col. vi of MSS bb (UrkNB3) // ee (UrkNB2) and z (UrkNB1), much of the lacuna can be filled)

247 [ašb]ū uštanaddanū ana […] 247
They [were sitting] down exchanging views, to […]

248 ḫaṣṣinnī niptiqu […] 248
‘Let us cast axes […]

249 pāšī sebe bilā … […] 249
hatchets of seven talents each, […]

250 namṣārīšunu sebe bilā 250
Their swords of seven talents each,

251 … […] 251
… […] Scribal annotation: [new] break

252 meserrīšunū ištêt bilā 252
Their belts of one talent apiece,

253 meserru ša […] 253
the belt of […]’

254 … […] 254
[…] … […] Scribal annotation: new break, new break

260 šimâʾinni eṭlūtu <ša> <uruk> <supūri> 260
‘Listen to me, O young men (of Uruk the sheepfold!) Scribal annotation: five lines skipped

261 eṭlūtu ša uruk mūdû […] 261
O young men of Uruk, who understand [combat!]

262 agdapuš allak urḫa rū[qata ašar ḫumbāba] 262
I have grown so bold as to travel the [distant] path [to where Ḫumbaba is.]

263 qabla ša lā īdû am[aḫḫar] 263
I shall face a battle that I do not know,

264 ḫar[rāna ša lā īdû arakkab] 264
[I shall ride] a road [that I do not know.]

265 kurbāʾinnī-ma lullik anāku 265
Give me your blessing, so that I may go,

266 pānīk[unu lūmur ina šulmi] 266
[so that I may see your] faces [(again) in safety,]

267 lūrubam-ma abul uruk in[a ḫūd libbi] 267
and come in through Uruk’s gate [glad at heart!]

268 lussaḫram-ma akīta ina ša[tti šinīšu lūpuš] 268
I will return and [perform] the akītu-festival [twice] in the year,

269 lūpuš-ma akīta ina ša[tti šinī]šu 269
the akītu I will perform [twice] in the year.

270 akītu liššakin-ma nig[ûtu libši] 270
Let the akītu take place and the merriment begin,

271 alû lirtaṣṣinū ina [maḫar rīmat-nins]un 271
let the drums be beaten in [the presence of Wild-Cow] Ninsun!’

272 enkīdu ana šībūti mil[ka imallik?] 272
Enkidu [gave] advice to the elders,

273 ana eṭlūti ša uruk mūdû[t? …] … 273
and the young men of Uruk, who understand [combat]

274 qibâniššum-ma lā illak ana q[išti e]rēni 274
‘Tell him that he must not go to the Forest of Cedar,

275 ḫarrānu šī ul ša alāki 275
that journey is not one for making.

276 amēlu šū [ul ša] amāri 276
That man [is not one for] the seeing,

277 nāṣir qišti erēni dān lā sākip 277
he who guards the Forest of Cedar is mighty, never resting.

278 [ḫumbāba rigmašu abūbu] 278
Ḫumbaba, [his voice is the Deluge,]

variant₁: [aššu šull]umi e[rēni]

279 [pīšu girrum-ma] napīssu mūtu 279
[his speech is fire,] his breath is death.

variant₁: [ana pulḫāti ša nišī išī]mšu [ellil]

280 [išemmē-ma ana šūši bēr] rimmāt qištīšu 280
[He hears] his forest’s murmur [for sixty leagues;]

281 [mannu ša urradu] ana qištīšu 281
[who is there that would venture] into his forest?

282 [adad ištēn u šū] šanû 282
[Adad is the first, but he is] the second!

283 [mannu ša igerrûšu i]na igīgī 283
[Who is there] among the Igigi [that would oppose him?]

284 [aššu šullumi erēni] 284

[In order to keep the cedars safe,]
285 ana pulḫāti ša nišī išīmšu ellil 285
Enlil made it his destiny [to be the] terror of the people.
286 [u] ārid qištīšu iṣabbassu luʾtu 286
[And] he who ventures into his forest, feebleness will seize him!’
287 itbû-ma mālikū rabbûtu 287
The senior advisers arose,
288 [ṭ]ēma utarrū ana gilgāmeš 288
they expressed in return (their) opinion to Gilgameš:
289 ṣeḫrēta gilgāmeš libbaka našīka (ummaka) (ulidka) 289
‘You are young, Gilgameš, carried away by enthusiasm,
290 u mimma ša tātamû‡ ul tīde 290
and the thing that you talk of you do not understand.
291 ḫumbāba rigmašu abūbu 291
Ḫumbaba, his voice is the Deluge,
292 pîšu girrum-ma napīssu mūtu 292
his speech is fire, his breath is death.
293 išemmē-ma ana šūši bēr rimmāt qištīšu 293
He hears his forest’s murmur for sixty leagues;
294 ārid(u) qištīššu i[ṣabbassu luʾt]u 294
he who ventures into his forest, [feebleness will seize him!]
295 mannu ša urradu ana qištīšu 295
Who is there that would venture into his forest?
296 mannu ša igerrûšu ina igīgī 296
Who is there among the Igigi that would oppose him?
297 adad ištēn u šū šanû 297
Adad is the first, but he is the second!
298 aššu šullumi erēni 298
In order to keep the cedars safe,
299 ana pulḫāti ša nišī išīmšu ellil 299
Enlil made it his destiny to be the terror of the people.
300 išmē-ma gilgāmeš amāt mālikī rabûti 300
Gilgameš heard the words of the senior advisers,
301 ippalis-m[a …] … enkīdu 301
he looked and … Enkidu.
302 … […] … 302
… […] …

III

1 [ana kāri ša] uruk [ṭiḫâ ina šulmi] 1
‘[Come back in safety] to [the quay of] Uruk!
2 [l]ā tatakkil gilgāmeš ana gimir emūqīka 2
Do not trust, O Gilgameš, in the fullness of your strength,
3 [ī]nāka lišbâ miḫiṣka tukkil 3
let your eyes be satisfied, strike a blow to rely on!
4 ālik maḫri tappâ ušezz[eb] 4
“He who goes in front saves (his) comrade,
5 ša ṭūda īdû ibiršu iṣṣur 5
he who knew the road protected his friend.”
6 [l]illik enkīdu ina pānīka 6
Let Enkidu go in front of you,
7 īde ḫarrāna ša qišti erēni 7
he knows the way to the Forest of Cedar!
8 [t]āḫāza amir-ma qabla kullum 8
He is tried in battles and experienced in combat,
9 enkīdu ibra liṣṣur tappâ lišallim 9
let Enkidu protect (his) friend and keep safe (his) comrade!
10 ana ṣēr ḫīrāti pagaršu libla 10
let him bring his person back to his wives!
11 ina puḫrīnī-ma nipqidakka šarra 11
In this our assembly we hereby give the king into your care:
12 tutarram-ma tapaqqidannâši šarra 12
you will ensure (his) return and give the king into our care.’
13 gilgāmeš pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi 13
Gilgameš opened his mouth to speak,
14 izakkara ana enkīdu 14
saying to Enkidu:
15 alka ibrī nillik(a) ana ēgalmaḫ 15

‘Come, my friend, let us go to Egal-maḫ,
16 ana maḫri ninsun šarrati rabīti 16
into the presence of the great Queen Ninsun!
17 ninsun emqet mūdât kalāma īde 17
Ninsun is clever, she is wise, she knows everything,
18 kibsī milki‡ išakkan ana šēpīni 18
she will set steps of (good) counsel for our feet.’
19 iṣṣabtū-ma qātu qātussu(n) 19
They took each other hand in hand,
20 gilgāmeš u enkīdu illakū ana ēgalmaḫ 20
Gilgameš and Enkidu, as they went to Egal-maḫ.
21 ana maḫar ninsun šarrati rabīti 21
Into the presence of the great Queen Ninsun,
22 gilgāmeš itbē-ma īterub ana maḫar‡ iš[tari ummīšu] 22
Gilgameš arose and entered before [the goddess, his mother.]
23 [gi]lgāmeš ana šâšim-ma izakkara ana n[insun] 23
Gilgameš said to her, to [Ninsun:]
24 ninsun agdapuš [allak] 24
‘O Ninsun, I have grown so bold [as to travel]
25 urḫa rūqata ašar ḫ[umbāba] 25
the distant path to where Ḫumbaba is.
26 qabla ša lā īdû am[aḫḫar] 26
I shall face a battle that I do not know,
27 [ger]ra ša lā īdû arak[kab] 27
I shall ride a road that I do not know.
28 [u]sappīki kurbīnnī-ma lullik an[āku] 28
I hereby beseech you, give me your blessing, so that I may go,
29 pānīki lūmur ina šulm[i] 29
so that I may see your face (again) in safety,
30 lūruba abul uruk ina ḫūd libb[i] 30
and come in through Uruk’s gate glad at heart!
31 lussaḫram-ma akīta ina šatti šinīšu lūp[u]š 31
I will return and perform the akītu-festival twice in the year,
32 lūpuš-ma akīta ina šatti šinīšu 32
the akītu I will perform twice in the year.
33 akītu liššakin-ma nigûtu libši 33
Let the akītu take place and the merriment begin,
34 alû lirtaṣṣinū ina maḫrīki 34
let the drums be beaten in your presence!’
35 [rīmat-n]insun amâti ša gilgāmeš mārīša 35
[Wild-Cow] Ninsun was listening in sorrow
36 u enkīdu marṣiš ištenemme 36
to the words of Gilgameš, her son, and Enkidu.
37 [ana] bīt narmaki sebêšu īrub‡ 37
She went seven times into the bath-house,
38 [ūtalli]l ramāšša ina mê bīni u tullal 38
[she cleansed] herself in water (perfumed with) tamarisk and soapwort.
39 […] raqqata simat pagrīša 39
[she dressed in] a fine garment, the adornment of her body,
40 […] … simat irtīša 40
[…] … the adornment of her breast.
41 […] iššaknam-ma‡ agâša aprat 41
[…] was put in place and she was wearing her crown,
42 […] šamḫātu qaqqara īperāni 42
[…] … the harlots… the ground.
43 iš[ḫiṭ ana] simmilti īteli ana ūri 43
She leapt [up] the staircase, she climbed on to the roof,
44 īli ana ūri ana [maḫ]ar šamaš qutrenna iškun 44
she climbed on to the roof, she set up a censer before Šamaš,
45 iškun surq[enna ana m]aḫar šamaš idīša išši 45
she scattered incense before Šamaš, she lifted her arms:
46 ammēni taškun ana mā[rīya] gilgāmeš libba lā ṣālila (tēmissu) 46
‘Why did you assign to [my] son Gilgameš, (why) inflict on him a restless spirit?
47 enennā-ma talpussū-ma illak 47
For now you have touched him and he will travel
48 urḫa rūqata ašar ḫumbāba 48
the distant path to the home of Ḫumbaba.
49 qabla ša lā īdû imaḫḫar 49
He will face a battle that he does not know,

50 gerra ša lā īdû irakkab 50
he will ride a route that he does not know.
51 adi ūmī illaku (u) iturra 51
During the days that he travels there and back,
52 adi ikaššadu ana qišti erēni 52
until he reaches the Forest of Cedar,
53 adi ḫumbāba dapīna inarru 53
until he slays ferocious Ḫumbaba,
54 u mimma lemna ša tazerru uḫallaq ina māti 54
and annihilates from the land the Evil Thing that you hate,
55 ina ūmi ša atta itû […] 55
by day when [you …] the boundary [of…,]
56 [š]ī ai īdurka ayya kallatu liḫassiska 56
may she not fear you, may Aya the Bride remind you:
57 [š]âšu ana maṣṣarāti ša mūši piqissu 57
“As for him, place him in the care of the watches of the night!
58 [ina barā]rīti […] 58
At eventide […] …”
59 […] … 59
[…] …,
60 […] … ana … 60
[…] to …,
61 […] … 61
[…] …,
62 […] namāri 62
… […] to shine.
63 taptē-ma š[amaš? … aṣ]ê ša būli 63
You have opened, O [Šamaš, … for the going] out of the livestock,
64 ana … […] tūṣâ ana māti 64
for … […] you came forth on the land.
65 ḫursānī […] … šamû 65
The uplands […], the heavens growing [bright,]
66 būl ṣēri [… r]uššâka 66
the herds of the wild […] your ruddy light.
67 uqaʾʾa a[na …] šâšunū-ma 67
[…] waited for […] them,
68 nammaššû [… k]âšu 68
the animals […] you.
69 […] našâkku 69
[…] I am offering you,
70 mīta [… n]apišta 70
the dead man […] life.
71 ana […] rēška 71
To the … […] your head,
72 ana ṣī[t … umm]ānū paḫrū 72
at the coming forth [of your rays the] crowds are gathered.
73 anunn[akū ana? nūrīka?] upaqqū 73
The Anunnaki wait intent [on your light.]
74 šī ai īd[urka ayya kallatu liḫassiska] 74
May she not fear [you, may Aya the Bride remind you:]
75 [š]âšu a[na maṣṣarāti ša m]ūši p[iqissu] 75
“As for him, [place him] in [the care of the watches of the night!]
76 gerra š[a šulmi?] šukun an[a šēpīšu] 76
Make for [his feet] a road of [safety,]
77 luput-m[a enk]īdu ina pānīšu [lillik] 77
touch Enkidu, so [he goes] before him!
78 aššu īd[û] ḫarrāna ša qiš[ti erēni] 78
Because he [knows] the way to the [Forest of Cedar,]
79 ḫarrān[a lišp]elki šadî [lištassiq?] 79
[he shall throw] open a path, [make] the mountains [passable.]
80 u dip[ārka? itt]a? ša ḫarrāni ina qātīšu [lišši?] 80
And a torch … for the journey [let him bear] in his hand,
81 adi gilgāmeš ikaššadu ana qi[šti] erēni 81
while Gilgameš travels to the [Forest] of Cedar,
82 lū arrakā ūmātu lū kurrā mušâtu 82
let the days be long, let the nights be short,
83 lū raksā qablāšu lū … [purīd]āšu 83
let his loins be girt, let his stride [be …!]
84 ina mūši liškun‡ karāš‡ nubatti 84

At dusk let him pitch camp for the night,
85 nubatti […] inillū 85
a stay overnight … they will lie down.”
86 šī ai īdurka ayya kallatu (rabītu) liḫassiska 86
May she not fear you, may Aya the Bride remind you!
87 ana‡ ūm ša gilgāmeš enkīdu u ḫumbāba itti aḫāmeš innemmidū‡ 87
On the day that Gilgameš, Enkidu and Ḫumbaba come face to face,
88 dikâššum-ma šamaš ana ḫumbāba meḫê rabûti‡ 88
send against Ḫumbaba, O Šamaš, the great stormwinds:
89 šūtu iltānu šadû amurru ziqqu ziqziqqu 89
South Wind, North Wind, East Wind, West Wind, Blast, Counterblast,
90 šaparziqqu imḫullu simurru asakku 90
Gale, Tempest, Typhoon, Hell-Wind,
91 šuruppû meḫû ašamšūtu 91
Icy Blast, Hurricane, Tornado:
92 šalaššeret šārū litbûnim-ma ša ḫumbāba līṭû pānūšu 92
Let (these) thirteen winds arise so the face of Ḫumbaba darkens,
93 u kakku ša gilgāmeš likšuda ḫumbāba 93
and the weapon of Gilgameš reaches Ḫumbaba!
94 ištu attūka libbaka ittūḫu 94
After your own heart has calmed down,
95 ina ūmīšū-ma šamaš ana [p]arîka šukun pānīka 95
at that time, O Šamaš, turn your face to your mules!
96 parûka ḫanṭūtu li[ša]ḫripūka 96
Your fleet-footed mules shall bring you (in) early,
97 šubtu nēḫtu mayyāl <mūši?> lū nadīka 97
let a restful seat, a bed … (scribal annotation: broken) be laid out for you
97a šubat […] 97a
a seat of […]
98 ilū aḫḫūka nindabê ša … liddinūka 98
The gods, your brothers, shall bring food [to delight] you,
99 ayya kallatu (rabītu) ina sissiktīša ebbeti pānīka likpur 99
may Aya the Bride wipe your face with her clean garment-fringe!’
100 rīmat-ninsun itūr-ma ana pān šamaš ušanna ûrta 100
Again Wild-Cow Ninsun repeated (her) behest before Šamaš:
101 šamaš gilgāmeš ul ilū … 101
‘O Šamaš, will not Gilgameš rank with the gods?
102 ul ittīka šamê iz(z)azza 102
Will he not share the heavens with you?
103 ul itti sîn iz(z)azza ḫaṭṭa‡ 103
Will he not share a sceptre with the moon?
104 ul itti ea apsâ īmeq 104
Will he not become wise with Ea of the Apsû?
105 ul itti irnini nišī ṣalmāt qaqqadi ib[ê]l 105
Will he not rule the black-headed race with Irnina?
106 ul itti ningišzida ina kurnugi [ušš]ab 106
[Will he] not dwell in the Land-of-No-Return with Ningišzida?
107 lubnīšū-ma? šamaš … 107
Let me make him, O Šamaš, […] …
108 ai … […] ai […] q[išti] e[rēni] 108
may he not … may he not […] the [Forest] of [Cedar.]
109 […] … ai ikš[ud …] 109
[…] … may he not reach […,]
110 […] … ilūtīka r[abīti] 110
[…] your [great] divinity.’
111 […] … […] 111
[…] … […]
112 […] … kīma? […] 112
[…] … like […]
113 […] … kīma nišī-ma 113
‘[…] … like the people themselves,
114 […] … kīma <taq>bû 114
[…] … you as [you] commanded,
115 ana … ḫumbāba tušerrebšu 115
to the … of Ḫumbaba you are making him enter.’
116 ultu rīmat-ninsun ana šamaš iddinu ûrta 116
After Wild-Cow Ninsun had delivered (her) behest to Šamaš,
117 [rīmat-ni]nsun em[qet mūdât kalāma īde] 117
[Wild-Cow] Ninsun was clever, [she was wise, she knew everything,]

118 […] gilgāmeš … […] 118
[…] Gilgameš … […]
119 ukabbit qutrinnam-ma … […] 119
she smothered the censer and came [down from the roof]
120 enkīdu issâm-ma išakkana ṭēma 120
She summoned Enkidu to declare (her) intention:
121 enkīdu dannu ul ṣīt ūrīya atta 121
‘O mighty Enkidu, you are not the offspring of my womb,
122 eninna atmūka itti šerkī ša gilgāmeš 122
but now your brood (will be) with the oblates of Gilgameš,
122a […] …
123 ugbakkāti qašdāti u kulmašâti 123
the priestesses, hierodules and temple girls.’
124 indī ittadi ana tikki enkīdu 124
She placed the symbols on Enkidu’s neck:
125 ugbakkātu ilqâ liqûta 125
‘The priestesses took in the foundling,
126 u mārāt ilī urabbâ tarbûta 126
and the Divine Daughters will bring up the foster-child.
127 anāku enkīdu š[a? arammu?] ilteqi‡ ana mārūti 127
I myself hereby adopt Enkidu, whom [I love], as a son,
128 enkīdu ana [aḫḫūti?] g[ilg]āmeš l[ida]mmeqšu 128
let Gilgameš in [brotherhood] treat Enkidu with favour!
129 e[ninn]a … […] 129
Now … […]
130 u … […] 130
And […] … […]
131 ad[i tall]aku … […] ana qišti erēni 131
while [you] travel [together] to the Forest of Cedar,
132 lū ar[rakā ūmātu] lū kurrā mušâtu 132
let [the days be] long, let the nights be short!
133 [lū raksā qablāka lū … pu]rīdaka 133
[Let your loins be girt, let] your stride [be long!]
134 [ina mūši šukun karāš nubat]ti 134
[At dusk pitch camp for the] night!
135 […li]ṣṣur 135
[by day may Shamash] protect [you]!’
136 […] … 136
[…] …
(Lines 137–138 lost; 139–144 traces of last signs only. The next fragment of text is from col. iv of MS NinNA1a, which probably ended at about l. 165:)
146 … […] 146
… […]
147 [gi]lgāmeš ana […] 147
Gilgameš to […]
148 … […] 148
His … […]
149 [an]a abul erē[ni …] 149
[To] the Gate of Cedar […]
150 [e]nkīdu ina bīt … […] 150
Enkidu in the chapel of … […]
151 u gilgāmeš ina bīt … […] 151
and Gilgameš in the chapel of […]
152 [bur]āšu surqinn[u …] 152
juniper, incense […]
153 [aš]bū? mārū … […] 153
members of the [… were] present […]
154 [a]šar? … […] 154
where … […]
155 … […] 155
… […]
156 … […] 156
… […]
157 … […] 157
… […]
158 … […] 158
… […]
(Overlapping with col. iv of MS NinNA1 must be the very ends of the last 16 lines preserved on col. v of MS NinNA2:)

149′ […] … 149′
[…] …
150′ […] … 150′
[…] …
151′ […] … 151′
[…] …
152′ […] … 152′
[…] …
153′ […] … 153′
[…] …
154′ […] … 154′
[…] …
155′ […] … 155′
[…] …
156′ […] … 156′
[…] …
157′ […] … 157′
[…] …
158′ […] … 158′
[…] …
159′ […] … 159′
[…] …
160′ […] | ḫar]rāna 160′
[…] road
161′ […] | gilgām]eš 161′
[…] Gilgameš
162′ […] … 162′
[…] …
163′ […] … 163′
[…] …
164′ […] | gilgāmeš 164′
[…] Gilgameš
(From l. 158 seven lines are lost to the end of col. iv on MS NinNA2. At approximately the same point will begin col. v of BabNB1, with its apparent duplicate, NinNA2d:)
164 [u kak]kū [ša gilgāmeš likšudū? ḫumbāba] 164
[and let the] weapon [of Gilgameš reach Ḫumbaba!]
165 [ina ū]mīšū-ma š[amaš ana šaḫṭi? liškun? pānīšu?] 165
[at] that time, [let] Šamaš [turn his face to the reverent one!]
166 ina amāt šamaš takaš[šad nizmatka?] 166
‘By the command of Šamaš you will attain [your desire,]
167 ina abul marūtuk […] 167
in the Gate of Marduk […]
168 ina irti ša mê i[llak? …] 168
on the surface of the water will go […]
169 kutalli nišī … […] 169
The back of people … […]
170 ina abul erēni u[l …] 170
in the Gate of Cedar … […]
171 gilgāmeš … […] 171
Gilgameš … […]
172 (u) enkīdu […] 172
and Enkidu […]’
173 [an]a ešrā bēr [kusup? kusāpa] 173
‘At twenty leagues [you should break bread!]’
(The lacuna that follows is partly to be filled with the last few lines of MS NinNA1a col v, which can probably be restored by comparison with ll. 51-4:)
202 [adi ūmī nillaku u nitur]ra? 202
‘[During the days that we travel there and] back,
203 [adi nikaššadu ana qišti e]rē[ni] 203
[until we reach the Forest of] Cedar,
204 [adi ḫumbāba dapīna ni]narr[u] 204
[until we] slay [ferocious Ḫumbaba,
205 [u mimma lemna ša šamaš izerru nuḫallaqu in]a [māti] 205
[and annihilate] from [the land the Evil Thing that Šamaš hates.]
(Following a lacuna of 1 or 2 lines, if any, the text resumes with col vi of MS BabNB1 and its duplicate MS NinNA1b:)
207 ē taršâ […] 207
May you not acquire […]
208 eṭlūti ina sūqi lā upaḫḫar[a …] 208

[…] must not assemble the young men in the street.
209 dīn enši dīn buʾʾi … 209
Judge the lawsuit of the weak, seek out …
210 adi kī šerri laʾî nikaššad niz[mat]ni 210
until, like little babies, we attain our desire,
211 adi ina abulli ša ŋumbaba nizaqqap [kakkīn]i? 211
until we plant our [weapons] at Ŋumbaba’s gate!’
212 izzizū-ma šakkanakkūšu [i]karrab[ū]šu 212
The officers stood there paying him homage,
213 paŋrū eṭlūtu ša uruk iltanassumū arkīšu 213
in a crowd the young men of Uruk ran about behind him,
214 u šakkanakkūšu unaššaqū šēpīšu 214
and the officers were kissing his feet:
215 ana kāri ša uruk ṭiŋâ ina šulmi 215
‘Come back in safety to the quay of Uruk!
216 lā tattakkal gilgāmeš ana gimir emūqīk[a] 216
Do not trust, O Gilgameš, in the fullness of your strength,
217 īnāka lišbâ miŋiṣka tukki[l] 217
let your eyes be satisfied, strike a blow to rely on!
218 ālik maŋri tappâ ušezz[eb] 218
“He who goes in front saves (his) comrade,
219 ša ṭūda īdû ibiršu li[ṣṣur] 219
he who knows the road should [protect] his friend.”
220 lillik enkīdu ina pānīk[a] 220
Let Enkidu go in front of you,
221 īde ŋarrāna ša qišti e[rēni] 221
he knows the way to the Forest of Cedar!
222 tāŋāza amir-ma qabla [kullum] 222
He is tried in battle and [experienced] in combat,
223 [an]a nērebēti ša šadî […] 223
to the mountain passes […]
224 [enk]īdu ibra li[ṣṣur tappâ lišallim] 224
Let Enkidu [protect] (his) friend [and keep safe (his) comrade!]
225 ana ṣēr ŋīrā[ti pagaršu libla] 225
[let him bring his person] back to his wives!
226 ina puŋrīnī-ma [nipqidakka šarra] 226
In this our assembly [we hereby give the king into your care:]
227 tutarram-ma tapa[qqidannâši šarra] 227
you will ensure (his) return and give [the king into our care.]’
228 enkīdu pâš[u īpuš-ma iqabbi] 228
Enkidu [opened] his mouth [to speak,]
229 izakkar [ana gilgāmeš] 229
saying [to Gilgameš:]
230 ibrī suŋŋ[ir? …] 230
‘My friend, turn [them back …]
231 gerra lā … […] 231
a journey not for […]
232 … […] 232
… […]
233 … […] 233
… […]
(Perhaps 10 lines are missing to the end of Tablet III.)
244 […] 244
[…]

IV

1 [ana ešrā] bēr iksupū kusāpa 1
[At twenty] leagues they broke bread,
2 [ana šala]šā bēr iškunū nubatta 2
[at] thirty leagues they pitched camp.
3 [ŋanšā b]ēr illikū kal ūmi 3
[Fifty] leagues they travelled in the course of a day,
4 [mālak arŋ]i u šapatti ina šalši ūmi iṭŋû ana šadî labnānu 4
a month and a half’s [march] by the third day, they drew near to Mount Lebanon.
5 [ana pān šamaš uŋa]rrû [būra] 5
[Facing the sun they] dug [a well,]
6 [mê? … iškunū ina …] 6
[in their waterskins they put fresh water]

7 [īlī-ma gilgāmeš ina muḫḫi šadî] 7
[Gilgamesh went up on to the top of the mountain,]
8 [maṣḫassu utteqqâ ana ḫursāni] 8
[he made his offerings of maṣḫatu-flour to the hill.]
9 [šadû bila šutta amāt šamši damiqta lūmur] 9
‘[O mountain, bring me a dream, let me see a favourable message from Šamaš!]’
10 [īpušaššum-ma enkīdu ana šâšu bīt zaqīqi] 10
[Enkidu made for him a ‘house of Zaqīqu’,]
11 [dalat šarbilli irteti ina bābīšu] 11
[he fixed a storm-door in its doorway.]
12 [ušnīlšū-ma ina kippati … uṣurti] 12
[in the circle he had drawn he made him lie down,]
13 [u šū kīma šēšê … ittatīl ina bābīšu] 13
[and falling flat like a net lay himself in the doorway]
14 [gilgāmeš ina kinṣīšu ūtammeda zuqassu] 14
[Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,]
15 [šittu rēḫât nišī elīšu imqut] 15
[the sleep that spills over people fell upon him.]
16 [ina qablīti šittašu uqatti] 16
[In the middle watch (of the night) he reached his sleep’s end,]
17 [itbē-ma ītammâ ana ibrīšu] 17
[he arose to talk to his friend:]
18 [ibrī ul talsânni ammīni ērēku] 18
‘[My friend, did you not call me? Why am I awake?]
19 [ul talputanni ammīni šāšâku] 19
[Did you not touch me? Why am I in confusion?]
20 [ul ilu ītiq ammīni ḫamû šīrūʾa] 20
[Did a god not pass by? Why is my flesh benumbed?]
21 [ibrī ātamar ištêt šutta] 21
[My friend, I have seen a dream,]
22 [u šu]tta ša ām[uru kalîš šāšât] 22
[and the] dream that I saw [was completely confused.]
23 [ina sa]panni šadî […] 23
[we were standing on] a mountain slope,
24 [šad]û imqut in[a …] 24
[the mountain] fell down [between us]
25 [u nī]nu kī … […] 25
[but] we like flies [flew clean over it]
26 [š]a iʾʾaldam-ma ina ṣē[ri mitluka ileʾʾi] 26
[The one who] was born in the [wild was able to give counsel,]
27 [iza]kkara ana ibrīšu enkīdu š[uttašu ušamḫaršu] 27
Enkidu spoke to his friend, [making his dream meaningful to him:]
28 [i]brī damqat šuna[tka bani …] 28
‘My friend, [your] dream is favourable, [… is fine,]
29 [š]uttu šūqurat […] 29
the dream is precious [and bodes us well]
30 [i]brī šadû ša tāmur[u …] 30
My friend, the mountain that you saw [was … ,]
31 [n]iṣabbat ḫumbāba ni[narraššu] 31
[we] shall capture Ḫumbaba, we [shall slay him,]
32 u šalamtašu ana tūšari n[inaddi] 32
and we shall [cast down] his corpse on the field of battle.
33 u ina ša šēri am[āt šamši damiqta nimmar] 33
And in the morning [we shall see a favourable] message [from Šamaš.]’
34 ana ešrā bēr iks[upū kusāpa] 34
At twenty leagues they broke [bread,]
35 ana šalāšā bēr iškunū [nubatta] 35
at thirty leagues they pitched [camp.]
36 ḫanšā bēr illikū kal [ūmi] 36
Fifty leagues they travelled in the course of [a day,]
37 mālak ar[ḫi u] šapatti ina šalši ūmi iṭḫû ana šadî [labnānu] 37
a [month and] a half’s march by the third day, they drew near to Mount [Lebanon.]
38 [an]a pān šamaš uḫarrû būra 38
Facing the sun they dug a well,
39 m[ê? … iškunū ina …] 39
[in their waterskins they put fresh] water
40 īlī-ma gilgāmeš ina muḫ[ḫi šadî] 40
Gilgamesh went up on to the top [of the mountain,]
41 [ma]ṣḫassu utteqqâ [ana ḫursāni] 41

he made his offerings of maṣḫatu-flour [to the hill.]
42 [š]adû bila šutt[a amāt šamši damiqta lūmur] 42
‘O mountain, bring me a dream, [let me see a favourable message from Šamaš!]’
43 īpušaššum-ma e[nkīdu ana šâšu bīt zaqīqi] 43
Enkidu made for him [a ‘house of Zaqīqu’,]
(Here ends col. i of MS Y (NinNA1), which resumes at the beginning of col. iii, by dead reckoning l. 87; Lines 44–55 of Y (NinNA1) col. ii can be partly restored according to the parallel passages.)
44 [dalat šarbilli irteti ina bābīšu] 44
[he fixed a storm-door in its doorway.]
45 [ušnīlšū-ma ina kippati … uṣurti] 45
[in the circle he had drawn he made him lie down,]
46 [u šū kīma šēšê … ittatīl ina bābīšu] 46
[and falling flat like a net lay himself in the doorway]
47 [gilgāmeš ina kinṣīšu ūtammeda zuqassu] 47
[Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,]
48 [šittu rēḫât nišī elīšu imqut] 48
[the sleep that spills over people fell upon him.]
49 [ina qablīti šittašu uqatti] 49
[In the middle watch (of the night) he reached his sleep’s end,]
50 [itbē-ma ītammâ ana ibrīšu] 50
[he arose to talk to his friend:]
51 [ibrī ul talsânni ammīni ērēku] 51
‘[My friend, did you not call me? Why am I awake?]
52 [ul talputanni ammīni šāšâku] 52
[Did you not touch me? Why am I in confusion?]
53 [ul ilu ītiq ammīni ḫamû šīrūʾa] 53
[Did a god not pass by? Why is my flesh benumbed?]
54 [ibrī ātamar šanīta šutta] 54
[My friend, I have seen a second dream,]
55 [u šutta ša āmuru kalîš šāšât] 55
[and the dream that I saw was completely confused.]’
(56–77 will relate the second dream and Enkidu’s explanation. Perhaps to be placed hereabouts is the first column of MS t (BabNB2):)
69 […] … 69
[…] …
70 [… ḫ]umbāba 70
[… was] Ḫumbaba.
71 […] … ša kurû arākšu 71
[…] … whose length was short,
72 […] … rapaš qatnu 72
[…] … wide and narrow.
73 […] ḫumbāba kīma ṣeḫri? immi? 73
[…] Ḫumbaba will become like a child,
74 […] …elšu 74
[…] … over him.’
75 […] … 75
[…] …
(Lines 78–83 can be restored after the parallels:)
78 [u ina ša šēri amāt šamši damiqta nimmar] 78
‘[And in the morning we will see a favourable message from Šamaš.]’
79 [ana ešrā bēr iksupū kusāpa] 79
[At twenty leagues they broke bread,]
80 [ana šalašā bēr iškunū nubatta] 80
[at thirty leagues they pitched camp.]
81 [ḫanšā bēr illikū kal ūmi] 81
[Fifty leagues they travelled in the course of a day,]
82 [mālak arḫi u šapatti ina šalši ūmi iṭḫû ana šadî labnānu] 82
[a month and a half’s march by the third day, they drew near to Mount Lebanon.]
83 [ana pān šamaš uḫarrû būra] 83
[Facing the sun they dug a well,]
84 [mê … iškunū ina] … 84
[in] their [waterskins they put fresh water]
85 [īlī-ma gilgāmeš ina muḫḫi] šadî 85
[Gilgamesh went up on to the top of] the mountain,
86 [maṣḫassu utteqqâ ana ḫurs]āni 86
[he made his offerings of maṣḫatu-flour to the] hill.
87 [šad]û bila šut[ta amāt šamši damiqta] lūmur 87
‘[O mountain], bring me a dream, so I may see [a favourable message from Šamaš!]’

88 [īp]ušaššum-ma [enkīdu ana šâšu] bīt zaqīqi 88
[Enkidu] made for him [a] ‘house of Zaqīqu’,
89 [dal]at šarbil[li irteti] ina bābīšu 89
[he fixed] a storm-door in its doorway.
90 [u]šnīlšū-ma [ina kippati …] uṣurti 90
[in the circle he had] drawn he made him lie down,
91 [u š]ū kīma šēšê [… itt]atīl ina bābīšu 91
[and falling flat] like a net lay himself in the doorway.
92 [gil]gāmeš ina kinṣīš[u] ūtammeda zuqassu 92
Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,
93 [šit]tu rēḫât nišī elīšu imqut 93
the sleep that spills over people fell upon him.
94 [ina q]ablīti šittašu uqatti 94
[In the] middle watch (of the night) he reached his sleep’s end,
95 [i]tbē-ma ītammâ ana ibrīšu 95
he arose to talk to his friend:
96 [i]brī ul talsânni ammīni ērēku 96
‘My friend, did you not call me? Why am I awake?
97 [u]l talputanni ammīni šāšâku 97
Did you not touch me? Why am I in confusion?
98 [u]l ilu ītiq ammīni ḫamû šīrūʾa 98
Did a god not pass by? Why is my flesh benumbed?
99 [i]brī ātamar šalušta šutta 99
My friend, I have seen a third dream,
100 u šutta ša āmuru kalîš šāšât 100
and the dream that I saw was completely confused.
101 [i]lsû šamû qaqqaru irammum 101
The heavens cried aloud, while the earth was rumbling,
102 [ū]mu ušḫarrir ūṣâ eklētu 102
the day grew still, darkness went forth.
103 [ibr]iq birqu innapiḫ išātu 103
Lightning flashed down, fire broke out,
104 [nabl]ū ištappû izzannun mūtu 104
[flames] kept flaring up, death kept raining down.
105 [idʾ]im-ma nebūtu ibteli išātu 105
The fire so bright dimmed and went out,
106 [nablū?] imtaqqutū itūr ana tumri 106
[the flames] diminished and turned into cinders.
107 [taʾʾald]am-ma ina ṣēri mitluka nileʾʾi 107
[You were] born in the wild, can we take counsel?’
108 [išme zikir ibrīš]u enkīdu šuttašu ušamḫaršu izakkara ana gil[gāmeš]
108
Enkidu [heard the words of his friend,] making his dream meaningful to him, he said to Gilgameš:
109 [ibrī damqat] šunatka bani … […] 109
‘[My friend,] your dream is good, [its message] is lucky.’
(The bulk of Enkidu’s explanation of the third dream is lost; the text is probably to be resumed by MS t col. iii, which will then begin the account of the fourth march:)
a+1’ […] … […] a+1’
[…] … […]
a+2’ … […] a+2’
[…] … […]
a+3’ ana ešrā bēr i[ksupū kusāpa] a+3’
At twenty leagues they [broke bread,]
a+4’ ana šalašā bēr iš[kunū nubatta] a+4’
at thirty leagues they pitched [camp.]
a+5’ ḫanšā bēr il[likū kal ūmu] a+5’
Fifty leagues they travelled [in the course of a day,]
a+6’ ašar … […] a+6’
Where … […]
a+7’ … […] a+7’
… […]
a+8’ … […] a+8’
… […]
a+9’ … […] a+9’
… […]
(But about here one also expects MS r (BabNB3) col. iii:)
120 [ana ešrā b]ēr i[ksupū kusāpa] 120
[At twenty] leagues they [broke bread,]
121 [ana šal]ašā bēr iškunū [nubatta] 121

[at thirty] leagues they pitched [camp.]
122 [ḫa]nšā bēr ill[ikū kal ūmi] 122
[Fifty] leagues they travelled [in the course of a day,]
123 [māla]k arḫi u šapatti ina šalš[u ūmu] 123
a month and a half’s [march] by the third [day,]
124 [iṭḫ]û ana šadî lab[nānu] 124
they drew near to Mount Lebanon.
125 [ana pā]n šamaš uḫarr[û būra] 125
[Facing] the sun they dug [a well,]
126 [mê? … i]škunū i[na …] 126
In [their waterskins] they put [fresh water.]
127 [ilī-ma g]ilgāmeš ina mu[ḫḫi šadî] 127
Gilgamesh [went up] on to the top [of the mountain,]
128 [maṣḫassu utt]eqqâ ana ḫ[ursāni] 128
[he made his] offerings of [maṣḫatu-flour] to [the hill.]
129 [šadû bila š]u[tta amāt šamši damiqta lūmur] 129
‘[O mountain, bring me a] dream, [let me see a favourable message from Šamaš!]’
(The next 13 lines, continuing the account of the fourth day, can be restored as above, ll. 88–100.)
130 [īpušaššum-ma enkīdu ana šâšu bīt zaqīqi] 130
[Enkidu made for him a ‘house of Zaqīqu’,]
131 [dalat šarbilli irteti ina bābīšu] 131
[he fixed a storm-door in its doorway.]
132 [ušnīlšū-ma ina kippati … uṣurti] 132
[in the circle he had drawn he made him lie down,]
133 [u šū kīma šēšê … ittatīl ina bābīšu] 133
[and falling flat like a net lay himself in the doorway.]
134 [gilgāmeš ina kinṣīšu ūtammeda zuqassu] 134
[Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,]
135 [šittu rēḫât nišī elīšu imqut] 135
[the sleep that spills over people fell upon him.]
136 [ina qablīti šittašu uqatti] 136
[In the middle watch (of the night) he reached his sleep’s end,]
137 [itbē-ma ītammâ ana ibrīšu] 137
[he arose to talk to his friend:]
138 [ibrī ul talsânni ammīni ērēku] 138
‘[My friend, did you not call me? Why am I awake?]
139 [ul talputanni ammīni šāšâku] 139
[Did you not touch me? Why am I in confusion?]
140 [ul ilu ītiq ammīni ḫamû šīrūʾa] 140
[Did a god not pass by? Why is my flesh benumbed?]
141 [ibrī ātamar rebūta šutta] 141
[My friend, I have seen a fourth dream,]
142 [u šutta ša āmuru kalîš šāšât] 142
[and the dream that I saw was completely confused.]’
(The details of Gilgameš’s fourth dream are lost in the SB epic. The text resumes with MSS rw_2v (BabNB3, UrkNB1b, BabaNB1), which are probably to be conflated with MS CC (NinNA2) reverse. This fragment preserves lines from the very end of col. iv, by dead reckoning about ll. 159–164. The result reads as follows:)
155 [ibrī damqat šu]natk[a bani …] 155
‘[My friend,] your dream [is favourable, … is fine,]
156 […] … ann[ītu …] 156
[…] this […]
157 […] ḫumbāba kīma … […] 157
[…] Ḫumbaba like … […,]
158 [… in]appaḫū […] elī[šu] 158
[… will] be kindled […] upon [him.]
159 […] … nišakka[n nuka]ssâ idīšu 159
We shall bring about his [defeat, we shall] bind his arms,
160 […] … […] 160
[…] … we shall …
161 […] … nizzazza eli [ṣēr]īšu 161
His […,] we shall stand there upon [him.]
162 [u ina ša] šēri amāt šamši damiqta ni[mmar] 162
[And in the] morning we shall [see] a favourable message from Šamaš.’
163 [ana] ešrā bēr iksupū kusāpa 163
[At twenty leagues] they broke bread,
164 [ana] šalašā bēr iškunū nubatta 164
[at thirty leagues] they pitched camp:

165 [ḫanšā bēr i]llikū ka[l ūmi] 165
[fifty leagues they] travelled in the course [of a day.]
166 [ana pān šam]aš uḫarrû b[ūra] 166
[Facing the sun] they dug a [well,]
167 [mê? … i]škunū i[na …] 167
in [their waterskins] they put [fresh water.]
168 [ilī-ma] gilgāmeš ina mu[ḫḫi šadî] 168
Gilgamesh [went up] on to the top [of the mountain,]
169 [maṣḫassu u]tteqqâ ana [ḫursāni] 169
[he made his] offerings of [maṣḫatu flour] to [the hill.]
170 [šadû bila] šutta amāt [šamši damiqta lūmur] 170
‘[O mountain, bring me] a dream, [let me see a favourable] message [from Šamaš!]’
171 [īpušaššum-m]a enkīdu ana [šâšu bīt zaqīqi] 171
Enkidu [made] for [him a ‘house of Zaqīqu’,]
172 [dalat šarbil]li irteti [ina bābīšu] 172
he fixed [a storm-door in its doorway.]
173 [ušnīlšū-m]a ina kippati … u[ṣurti] 173
In the circle [he had drawn he made him lie down,]
174 [u šū kīma šēšê …] … itt[atīl ina bābīšu] 174
[and falling] flat [like a net] lay [himself in the doorway].
175 [gilgāmeš ina kinṣī]šu ūt[ammeda zuqassu] 175
[Gilgamesh] rested his [chin on his knees,]
176 [šittu rēḫât niš]ī e[līšu imqut] 176
[the sleep that spills over people fell] upon [him.]
(Lines 177–183 can be restored after the pattern of previous episodes.)
177 [ina qablīti šittašu uqatti] 177
[In the middle watch (of the night) he reached his sleep’s end,]
178 [itbē-ma ītammâ ana ibrīšu] 178
[he arose to talk to his friend:]
179 [ibrī ul talsânni ammīni ērēku] 179
‘[My friend, did you not call me? Why am I awake?]
180 [ul talputanni ammīni šāšâku] 180
[Did you not touch me? Why am I in confusion?]
181 [ul ilu ītiq ammīni ḫamû šīrūʾa] 181
[Did a god not pass by? Why is my flesh benumbed?]
182 [ibrī ātamar ḫamušta šutta] 182
[My friend, I have seen a fifth dream,]
183 [u šutta ša āmuru kalîš šāšât] 183
[and the dream that I saw was completely confused.]’
(A fragment of Y (NinNA1) contains part of one of Enkidu’s explanations and probably belongs here:)
b+1’ … […] b+1’
… […]
b+2’ ša pîšu […] b+2’
‘The one whose mouth […]
b+3’ eṭla ša tāmuru […] b+3’
The man you saw [was …,]
b+4’ ina ūmīšū-ma […] b+4’
at that time […]
b+5’ iṣabbat kapp[īšu …] b+5’
He will take hold of [its] wings […,]
b+6’ inaššaq[ū …] b+6’
they will kiss […]
b+7’ anāku […] b+7’
I […]’
(After a gap we expect MS S (NinNA3) col. vi:)
210 [itt]aldū […] 210
‘[…] have been born […]’
211 gilgāmeš pâ[šu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana enkīdu] 211
Gilgameš [opened his] mouth [to speak, saying to Enkidu:]
212 ibrī ul […] 212
‘My friend, [have they] not […?]
213 ul mārī ittald[ū …] 213
Have they not sired sons […?]
214 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-m[a iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš] 214
Enkidu opened his mouth [to speak, saying to Gilgameš:]
215 ibrī ša nillakašš[u nukkur mimma] 215
My friend, the one to whom we are going, [he is something very strange!]
216 ḫumbāba ša n[illakaššu nukkur mimma] 216

Ḫumbaba, to whom we [are going, he is something very strange!]’
217 gilgāmeš pâšu īp[uš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana enkīdu] 217
Gilgameš opened his mouth [to speak, saying to Enkidu:]
218 [i]brī lun[īr? …] 218
‘My friend, I would [slay …]
219 […] an[a …] 219
[…] to […’]
(Traces are preserved at the end of cols. v and vi of MS w_1 (UrkNB1a). Col. vi is presumably a colophon.)
c+1’ … […] c+1’
… […]
c+2’ … […] c+2’
… […]
d+1’ … […] d+1’
… […]

V

1 izzizzū-ma inappatū qišta 1
They stood marvelling at the forest,
2 ša erēni ittanaplasū mēlâšu 2
gazing at the lofty cedars,
3 ša qišti ittanaplasū nērebšu 3
gazing at the forest’s entrance –
4 ašar ḫumbāba ittallaku šakin kibsu 4
Where Ḫumbaba came and went there was a track,
5 ḫarranātu šutēšurā-ma ṭubbat girru 5
the paths were in good order and the way was well trodden.
6 immarū šadâ erēni 6
They were gazing at the Cedar Mountain,
7 mūšab ilī parak irninnī 7
the dwelling of the gods, the throne-dais of the goddesses,
8 [ina p]ān šadîm-ma‡ erēnu naši ḫiṣibšu 8
[on the] very face of the mountain the cedar was proffering its abundance,
9 [ṭ]āb ṣillašu mali rīšāti 9
sweet was its shade, full of delight.
10 [šutēl]up giṣṣu ḫitlupat [qišt]u 10
[Thick] tangled was the thorn, the forest a shrouding canopy,
11 […] … erēnu ballukkum-ma nēreba ul īši 11
cedars and gum trees, [all entwined,] left no way in.
12 [naši] papalla ana (ištēn) bēri erēnu 12
For a league on all sides cedars [lifts up] saplings,
13 […] … šurmēnu ana šinipât bēr 13
cypresses [grew thick] for two-thirds of a league.
14 [adi š]ušši mēlê kiṣra laʾib erēnu 14
Cedars scabbed with resin grew sixty cubits high,
15 [iḫū]l-ma ḫīlu kīma zunni izannun 15
the resin [oozed] forth, drizzling down like rain,
16 [illa]k-ma ubbalū ḫarrū 16
[flowing freely] for ravines to bear away.
17 [ina ku]llat qišti iṣṣūru iṣanbur 17
[Through] all the forest a bird began to sing,
18 […] ītappalā i[ḫabb]ub rigmu 18
[hen birds] gave answer, a constant din was the noise.
19 [ēdû?] zizānu šisīta unaʾʾi 19
[A solitary] tree-cricket set off a noisy chorus,
20 […] … ištammarū … ušaḫla[l] 20
… sing a song, making the … pipe loud.
21 [idamm]um uršānu sukanninu ītappal 21
A wood pigeon moans, a turtle dove calls in answer.
22 […] raqraqqi irâš qištu 22
[At the call of] the stork, the forest exults,
23 […] tarlugalli irâš qišti nuḫši 23
[at the cry of] the francolin, the forest exults amid plenty.
24 [pagât]u ištammarā mīrān pagî ilabbu 24
[Monkey mothers] sing aloud, a youngster monkey shrieks:
25 [kīma kiṣi]r nārī u tigî 25
[like a band] of musicians and drummers,
26 ūmišam-ma urtaṣṣanū ina pānī ḫumbāba 26

daily they bash out a rhythm in the presence of Ḫumbaba.
27 [iddī-m]a ṣillašu erēnu 27
As the cedar [cast] its shadow,
28 [puluḫ]tu imtaqut eli gilgāmeš 28
[terror] fell on Gilgameš.
29 [mangu iṣ]bat idīšu 29
[Stiffness took] a grip on his arms,
30 (u) luʾtu imtaqut eli birkīšu 30
and tremors beset his legs.
31 [enkīdu p]âšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš 31
[Enkidu] opened his mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:
32 [i nit]tarda ina qereb qišti 32
‘[Let us go deep] into the midst of the forest,
33 [qātka pi]tē-ma i niškun tukka 33
[let us get] going and raise a loud cry!’
34 [gilgāme]š pâšu īpušam-ma iqabbi izakkara ana enkīdu 34
[Gilgameš] opened his mouth to speak, saying to Enkidu:
35 [ammēni i]brī pisnuqiš nišubbam-ma 35
‘[Why,] my friend, do we tremble like cowards,
36 [… nī]tettiqa kalîšunu ḫursānī 36
[we who] came across all the mountains?
37 […] … ina pānīni 37
‘[Shall] … before us?
38 lāma nittaḫsu […] 38
Before we have withdrawn…
variant₁: […] … | nimmar | nūra
39 [ibr]ī mūdû tuqunta 39
‘My [friend] is one who is tested in combat,
40 ša tāḫāza etmuru ul iddar mūta 40
one who has been in battle has no fear of death.
41 [dām]ī taltappit-ma ul taddar mūta 41
‘You have been splashed in blood, so you need not fear death:
42 [kim]il-ma kī apillîm-ma šunn[i ṭē]nka 42
[go] berserk, like a dervish fall into a frenzy.
43 [kīm]a lilissi lū šapu r[igimka] 43
Let [your shout] boom loud [like] a kettle drum,
44 [l]īṣi mangu ša idīka u luʾtu litbâ [ina bi]rkīka 44
may stiffness leave your arms, the tremors depart from your legs!’
45 [t]iṣbat ibrī ištēniš … 45
‘Take my hand, friend, and we shall go [on] together,
46 [lidb]ub libbaka tuqunta 46
[let] your thoughts dwell on combat!
47 mūta mīši-ma balāṭa [šeʾi?] 47
Forget death and [seek] life!
48 [ša i]na idi pallu pitqudu amēlu 48
[The one who] walks alongside is the prudent man.
49 [ša ina] pāni illaku pagaršu iṣṣur tappâ lišallim 49
‘“[Let him who] goes first be on guard for himself and bring his comrade to safety!”
50 [ana ūmi r]ūqūti šunu šuma ištaknū 50
It is they made a name [for days] long in the future!’
51 […] rēqi ikšudū kilallān 51
[At the] distant … they both arrived,
52 [ugammir]ū amâtīšunu šunu izzizzū 52
[they ceased] their talking and came to a halt.
53 [izzizzū]-ma inappatū qiš[ta] 53
They stood marvelling at the forest,
54 […] 54
[…]
55 i[š]tu ullânum-ma namṣārī … […] 55
At once the swords…,
56 u ištu tākalāti […] 56
and from the scabbards […].
57 ḫa[ṣṣi]nnū litputū […] 57
The axes were smeared […],
58 pā[šū u] namṣārū ina? … […] 58
hatchets [and] dirks in […]
59 ištē[n …] … […] 59
One […],
60 iḫlu[pū …] 60

They crept [into …]
61 ḫumbāba u[štamma ana libbīšu amāta iqabbi] 61
Ḫumbaba [talked with himself, speaking a word:]
62 ul illik … […] 62
“Did not a … go … […?]
63 ul illik … […] 63
Did not go … […]?
64 mīnâ uddurū […] 64
Why are … perturbed and …?
65 mīnâ attū[ʾa …] 65
‘Why are my own … […]?
66 ina uttūti? ana … […] 66
In terror for … […]
67 mīnâ-ma … […] 67
How indeed, … […]?
variant₁: … […]
68 ina eršīyā-ma … […] 68
In my very bed … […]
69 mindē-ma en[kīdu …] 69
‘It must be Enkidu … […],
70 ina dumqi … […] 70
in goodwill he … […],
71 šumma amātu ana […] 71
If a word to … […]
72 ellil lizz[uršu? …] 72
may Enlil curse him …!’
73 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-[ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš] 73
Enkidu [opened] his mouth [to speak, saying to Gilgameš:]
74 ibrī ḫumbāba … […] 74
‘My friend, Ḫumbaba … […]
75 ibru ištēn ištēn-ma š[ina šinā-ma] 75
One friend is one alone, but [two are two!]
76 lū makû-ma šit[tā …] 76
‘Though they be weak, two … […],
variant₁: [šinā] | lubārātū-ma | […]
77 lū mušḫalṣītum-ma u[l …] šittā … […] 77
[though one alone cannot climb] a sloping rampart, two [will succeed!]
78 šittā takšāti … […] 78
Two triplets … […]
79 ašlu šušlušu […] 79
a three-ply rope [is not easily broken.]
80 ištēn kalbu dannu šittā mīrā[nūšu …] 80
‘A strong dog’s two pups [will overcome it]
81 išdīka kīn-m[a …] 81
Fix firm your stance […]
82 ibrī šiltāḫ ū[ṣi …] 82
My friend, an arrow’s dart … […],
83 ḫarrān tarak[kabu …] 83
the journey that you are making…
84 kī nittaḫs[u …] 84
‘When we have departed […]
85 … naši […] 85
… is borne […]
86 … šittā […] 86
Its … two […]
87 ibrī eli šārī? ša šam[aš …] 87
My friend, on the winds that Šamaš […]
88 arkassu meḫûm-ma [pānāssu šāru] 88
‘His rear is a tempest, [his forequarters wind.]
89 qibī-ma ana šamaš lid[dikku …] 89
Speak to Šamaš, that he [give you his winds!]’
90 išši rēšīšu gilgā[meš ana pān šamaš ibakki] 90
Gilgameš lifted his head, [weeping before Šamaš,]
91 ana pān šarūrī ša šamaš il[lakā dimāšu] 91
[his tears] flowing under the rays of the sun:
92 [yâši ša libb]i uruk taqbû[ni ē tamši] 92
‘[Do not forget the day that] you spoke [to me] in Uruk!’
variant₁: annâ | ūma | šamaš | ša atkalak[ka | ē tamši]
93 eninna izizzam-ma … […] 93

Now come to my aid and … […]
94 eli gilgāmeš perʾi ša libbi uru[k ṣillaka šukun] 94
Upon Gilgameš, offshoot sprung from Uruk’s midst, [place your protection!]’
95 šamaš išmē-ma zikir pî[šu] 95
Šamaš heard what he had spoken,
96 ištu ullânum-ma tukku iš[tu šamê iltanasâššu] 96
straight away [from the sky there cried out] a voice:
97 ē taplaḫ izizzaššu lā irr[ub ana qištīšu] 97
‘Fear not, stand against him! Ḫumbaba must not [enter his forest,]
98 lā urrad ana ḫalbim-ma lā [inaššâ …] 98
he must not go down to the grove, he must not put on his auras.]’
99 [lā‡ i]ḫḫalip sebe naḫlapātīš[u ša namrirrī] 99
‘He [must not] wrap himself in his seven cloaks…!
100 ištēt ḫalip-ma šediš šaḫiṭ 100
[One] he is wrapped in, six he has shed.’
101 šunu […] 101
They […]
102 kīma rīmi kadri itkup[u …] 102
like a fierce wild bull, ready to charge […]
103 [i]ttilta issī-ma mali pi[ritta (…)] 103
He bellowed once, a bellow full of terror,
104 [m]aṣṣar qišāti išassi 104
the guardian of the forests was bellowing,
105 … […] 105
… […]
106 ḫumbāba kīma adad i[raggum] 106
Ḫumbaba was [thundering] like the God of the Storm.
(Soon afterwards MS UrkNB1 begins Tablet V.)
115 ḫumbāba pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgām[eš] 115
Ḫumbaba opened his mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:
116 limtalkū lillū gilgāmeš nuʾû amēlu mīnâ tal[likam] adi maḫrīya
116
‘Let fools, Gilgameš, take the advice of an idiot fellow! Why have you come [here] into my presence?
117 alka enkīdu mār nūni ša lā īdû abāšu 117
Come, Enkidu, (you) spawn of a fish, who knew not his father,
118 atam raqqi u šeleppê ša lā īniqu šizib ummīšu 118
hatchling of terrapin and turtle, who sucked not the milk of his mother!
119 ina ṣeḫērīka adaggalkā-ma ul aqerrubakka 119
When you were young I would watch you but I would not go near you,
120 […] … ultabbâ ina karšīya 120
would your… have sated my belly?
121 [… lemn]iš gilgāmeš tušakšida adi maḫrīya 121
‘[Now in treache]ry you bring before me Gilgameš,
122 u at[ta k]ī nakri aḫî tazzizza 122
and you take your stand here like a hostile enemy?
123 lu[kkis ša] gilgāmeš napšāra u kišāda 123
I will [slit] the gullet and throat of Gilgameš,
124 lušāk[il šī]rīšu i[ṣṣ]ūr ṣarṣari nāʾeri arê u zībi 124
I will feed his flesh to the birds of the forest, ravening eagle and vulture!’
125 gilg[āme]š pâšu īpuš-m[a] iqabbi izakkara ana enkīdu 125
Gilgameš opened his mouth to speak, saying to Enkidu:
126 ibrī [ša ḫum]bāba i[št]anû pānūšu 126
‘My friend, Ḫumbaba’s features have changed!
127 u gašri[š n]ītelâ ana ašrīšu nikaššas[s]u šâšu 127
Boldly we came up here to his lair to defeat him,
128 u libbi [i]plaḫu ul ipašša[ḫ] a[di] surriš 128
but the heart that took fright does not grow calm in a moment.’
129 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara [ana gilgā]meš 129
Enkidu opened his mouth to speak, saying [to] Gilgameš:
130 ammīni ibrī pisnuqiš [taqa]bbi 130
‘Why, my friend, [do you] speak like a weakling?
131 u pīka irmâm-ma tulam[min l]ibbī 131
With your feeble talk you vex my heart!
132 eninnā-ma ibrī ištât […] … […] 132
‘Now, my friend, but one is [our task,]
133 ina rāṭ nappāḫi erâ šabāšâ 133
already the copper pours into the mould!
134 tumra ana ištēn bēr napāḫu napiḫta ana ištēn bēr šalû 134

To stoke the furnace for an hour? To blow on the coals for an hour?
135 šapāru abūba ištuḫḫa lapātu 135
To send the Deluge is to crack the whip!
136 [ē] tassuḫ šēpīka ē tatūr ana arkīka 136
[Do not] pull back your foot, do not make a retreat!
137 [eninna kīma l]abbi miḫiṣka dunnin 137
Make your blow mighty, [like that of a] lion!
138 ai […] 138
Let not … […]
139 […-k]a 139
[…] you.
140 šūtu liṭṭu[l …] 140
And as for him, let him look […]
141 […] 141
‘Be mindful of your god Lugalbanda,
142 [šu]nātu mala tātammaru … […] 142
keep in your thoughts all the dreams that you had!’
143 […] 143
Gilgameš went [forward] on the advice of his friend,
144 […] 144
nine times he smote bedrock, the mountain broke up.
145 […] 145
He launched like a lion a brutal attack,
146 […] 146
and Enkidu pounced like a puma.
147 […] 147
They seized hold of Ḫumbaba in the midst of the forest,
148 […] 148
his terrible auras did fill the forest.
149 […] 149
They grabbed his auras in their hands,
150 […] 150
Ḫumbaba bellowed, on his own account howling:
151 […] 151
‘[I shall] lift them and climb to the sky!
152 […ana ap]sî lū tardū 152
[I shall] smite the ground so they fall to the Ocean Below!’
153 iššīšunūtī-ma [šamû?] rūqū 153
He lifted them up but the sky was too far,
154 imḫaṣ qaqqaram-ma pīlu uštamḫiršu 154
he smote the ground but the bedrock withstood him.
155 ina asīd šēpīšunu qaqqaru ibešša 155
At the heels of their feet the earth was splitting apart,
156 ina sârīšunu uḫtappû sirara u labnānu 156
as they whirled around Sirara and Lebanon were sundered.
157 iṣṣalim urpatu peṣītu 157
White cloud was turned to black,
158 mūtu kīma imbari izannun elīšun 158
death raining down upon them like a mist.
159 šamaš ana ḫumbāba idkâššum-ma meḫê rabûti 159
Šamaš roused against Ḫumbaba the mighty stormwinds:
160 šūtu iltānu šadû amurru ziqqu 160
South Wind, North Wind, East Wind, West Wind, Blast,
161 ziqziqqu šaparziqqu imḫullu simurru 161
Counterblast, Gale, Tempest, Typhoon,
162 asakku šuruppû meḫû ašamšūtu 162
Hell-Wind, Icy Blast, Hurricane, Tornado:
163 šalaššeret šārū itbûnim-ma ša ḫumbāba īṭû pānūšu 163
Thirteen winds rose up and the face of Ḫumbaba darkened —
164 ul inakkip ana pānīšu ul iraḫḫiṣ ana arkīšu 164
he cannot charge forwards, he cannot kick backwards —
165 u kakkū ša gilgāmeš ikšudū ḫumbāba 165
and then the weapons of Gilgameš did catch Ḫumbaba.
166 ḫumbāba napšatuš išeʾʾe izakkara ana gilgāmeš 166
Pleading for his life, Ḫumbaba said to Gilgameš:
167 ṣeḫrēta gilgāmeš ummaka ulidka 167
‘You are young, Gilgameš, (as when) your mother bore you,
168 u ilitti ša r[īmat-ninsun] attā 168
but you are the offspring of [Wild-Cow Ninsun!]

169 ina pî šamaš ešret šadî taspun-ma 169
By Šamaš’s command you flattened ten mountains,
170 perʾum-ma ša (libbi) uruk šarru gilg[ām]eš 170
O offshoot sprung from Uruk’s midst, Gilgameš the king!
171 [matīm]a gilgāmeš mītu ul … [b]ēla 171
‘Never, O Gilgameš, did a dead man please a master,
172 [ardu? balṭ]u ana bēlīšu [ittūr?] 172
[but a slave] alive [brings profit] to his owner.
173 gilgāmeš eṭir napištī […] 173
O Gilgameš, be merciful! […]
174 lušibakkum-ma ina […] 174
Let me stay here in the forest at your beck and call!
175 iṣṣī mala taqabbâ […] 175
‘Trees I will keep you, as many as you ask for:
176 luṣṣurka asa […] 176
I will keep your myrtle, cedar and cypress,
177 iṣṣī balti ekal[līka …] 177
timber to be the pride of [your] palace […]’
178 [e]nkīdu pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izak[kara ana gilgāmeš] 178
Enkidu opened his mouth to speak, saying [to Gilgameš:]
179 [ibr]ī ē tašme ša ḫumbāba q[a]bâ[šu] 179
Do not listen, my [friend,] to Ḫumbaba’s words of pleading,
180 […] unninnūšu … […] 180
[…] should his pleading ever enter your mind?
181 [… iramm]ī-ma [u]l […] 181
‘If he returns to his home, we shall be as unborn!
182 […] a[n]a […] 182
He will bind us fast in the Forest of Cedar,
183 […] … […] 183
[then] enter the grove and put [on his auras.]’
184 […] 184
Ḫumbaba [heard how Enkidu] abused [him.]
185 [išši rēšīšu ḫumbāba ana pān šamaš ibakki] 185
[Ḫumbaba lifted his head, weeping before Šamaš,]
186 [ana pān šarūri ša šamaš illakā dimāšu] 186
[his tears flowing under the rays of the sun:]
187 […] 187
[…]
(Short lacuna.)
190 amrātā-ma ṭēmī qištīya ṭēmī … [(…)] 190
‘You are experienced in the ways of my forest, the ways […,]
191 u tīde kalīšunu ša qabê 191
also you know all the (best) things to say.
192 lū aššīka lū ālulka ina nēreb papalli qištīya 192
Had I only picked you up and hanged you from a sapling at my forest’s entrance,
193 lū ušākil šīrīka iṣṣūr ṣarṣari nāʾeri arî u zībi 193
Had I only fed your flesh to the birds of the forest, ravening eagle and vulture.
194 eninnā-ma enkīdu ittīka šakin rumm[ûʾa] 194
Now, Enkidu, [my] release rests with you:
195 qibī-ma ana gilgāmeš napištī līṭer 195
speak to Gilgameš so he spares my life.’
196 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgā[meš] 196
Enkidu opened his mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:
197 ibrī ḫumbāba maṣṣar qišti [erēni] 197
‘My friend, Ḫumbaba, guardian of the Forest of [Cedar,]
198 gummiršu nēršu ṭēnšu ḫulli[q] 198
finish him, slay him, do away with his power!
199 ḫumbāba maṣṣar qišti gumm[iršu] nēršu ṭēnšu ḫul[liq] 199
Ḫumbaba, guardian of the Forest, finish him, slay him, do away with his power,
200 lām išmû ašarēdu e[llil] 200
before Enlil the foremost has learned (about it)!
201 libbātīni imallû il[ū rabûtu] 201
The [great] gods could be angry with us,
202 ellil ina nippuri šamaš ina [larsa …] 202
Enlil in Nippur, Šamaš in [Larsa …]
203 šuziz-ma dārâ […] 203
establish for ever [a fame] that endures,
204 kī gilgāmeš ḫumb[āba …] 204
how Gilgameš [slew ferocious] Ḫumbaba!’

205 [i]šmē-ma ḫumbāba […] 205
Ḫumbaba heard [how Enkidu abused him.]
206 [iššī]-ma rēšīšu ḫumb[āba ana pān šamaš ibakki] 206
Ḫumbaba [lifted] his head, [weeping before Šamaš.]
207 [ana pān šarūrī ša šamaš illakā dimāšu] 207
[his tears flowing under the rays of the sun:]
(Lacuna of at least 40 lines.)
247 … […] 247
… […]
248 … […] 248
… […]
249 enk[īdu pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš] 249
Enkidu [opened his mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:]
250 ibr[ī iṣṣūra bār-ma] 250
‘My friend, [catch a bird,]
251 êšam [illakū atmūšu] 251
and where [can its hatchlings go?]
252 ḫumb[āba …] 252
Ḫumbaba […]
253 ekâm il[lakū …] 253
Whither will [they go…?]
254 ekâm il[lakū …] 254
Whither will [they go …?]’
255 išmē-ma ḫumb[āba …] 255
Ḫumbaba heard [how Enkidu abused him.]
256 iššī-ma rēšīšu ḫum[bāba ana pān šamaš ibakki] 256
Ḫumbaba lifted his head, [weeping before Šamaš,]
257 ana pān šarūrī ša šamaš [illakā dimāšu] 257
[his tears flowing] under the rays of the sun:
258 lū tērub enk[īdu …] 258
“You did enter, O Enkidu, […]
259 ina šitmur kakki mālik[u …] 259
in the clashing of weapons a prince […]
260 u (ana) aš(šā)bu ša bītīšu girâtu […] 260
and the one who dwells in his house […] hostilities.
261 ašbāta kīma rēʾî maḫa[ršu] 261
You sit before [him] like a shepherd,
262 u kī agir pîšu … […] 262
and like one at his beck and call you […]
263 eninnā-ma enkīdu ittīka šakin [rummûʾa] u […] 263
Now, Enkidu, [my release] rests with you, and [… ,]
264 qibī-ma ana gilgāmeš napištī l[īṭer] 264
speak to Gilgameš so he [spares] my life!’
265 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara [ana gilgāmeš] 265
Enkidu opened his mouth to speak, saying [to Gilgameš:]
266 ibrī ḫumbāba maṣṣar qi[šti] 266
‘My friend, Ḫumbaba, guardian of the Forest of [Cedar,]
267 gummiršu nēršu ṭ[ēnšu ḫulliq] 267
finish him, slay him, [do away with his power,]
268 ḫumbāba maṣṣar qišti g[ummiršu nēršu ṭēnšu ḫulliq] 268
‘Ḫumbaba, guardian of the Forest of Cedar, finish [him, slay him, do away with his power,]
269 lām išmû ašarēdu [ellil] 269
before [Enlil] the foremost has learned (about it)!
270 (u) libbātīni imallû ilū rabû[tu] 270
The [great] gods could be angry with us,
271 ellil ina nippuri šamaš ina [larsa šuziz]-ma dārâ […] 271
Enlil in Nippur, Šamaš in [Larsa (…) establi]sh for ever [a fame] that endures,
272 kī gilgāmeš ḫumbāba inarr[u …] 272
how Gilgameš slew [the fearsome] Ḫumbaba!’
273 išmē-ma ḫumbāb[a] … […] 273
Ḫumbaba heard [how Enkidu] abu[sed him.]
274 išš[ī-ma rēšīšu] ḫum[bāba ana pān šamaš ibakki] 274
Ḫumbaba [lifted up] his head, [weeping before Šamaš,]
275 ana pān ša[rūrī ša šamaš illakā dimāšu] 275
[his tears flowing] under the [rays of the sun:]
276 … […] 276
[“O Šamaš …”]
(MS NinNA1a v begins here, possibly with a slight overlap:)
276’ […] … […] 276’

… […]
277 … […] … […] 277
… […]
278 ay … […] 278
May they not […]
279 ay ulabbirū kilallān 279
May the pair of them not grow old,
280 eli ibrīšu gilgāmeš enkīdu qēbira ai irši 280
apart from his friend Gilgameš, may Enkidu have nobody to bury him!’
281 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš 281
Enkidu opened his mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:
282 i[br]ī aqabbīkum-ma ul tašemmânni 282
‘My friend, I speak to you but you do not listen to me!
283 adi arrāt … […] 283
Until the curses … […] … […]
284 … […] ana pîšu 284
[let those curses return] to his mouth.’
285 [išme gilgāmeš zik]ir ibrīšu 285
[Gilgameš heard the words] of his friend,
286 išlup [namṣāra ina] idīšu 286
he drew forth [the dirk at] his side.
287 gilgāme[š ināršū] k[iš]ādam-ma 287
Gilgameš [smote him] in the neck,
288 … en[kīdu libbašu il]put adi ḫašê ištalpu 288
Enkidu cut out [his heart], pulled it forth with the lungs.
289 […] … išaḫḫiṭ 289
[…] … jumping up,
290 [ult]u qaqqadi išallal šinnī 290
[from] the head he takes the tusks as booty.
291 […] ṭuḫdu ana šadî imqut 291
[blood] in plenty fell on the mountain,
292 […] ṭuḫdu ana šadî imqut 292
[gore] in plenty fell on the mountain.
293 […] … 293
[…] …
294 […] … 294
[…] …
(Approximately five lines missing.)
298 […] … 298
[…] …
299 […] … […] 299
[…] … […]
300 [… g]ilgāmeš iraḫḫi[ṣ] qišta 300
Gilgameš went trampling [through the] forest,
301 […] riqqī erēni šâšu ubbalu [ana …] … ellil 301
to take the resin from the cedars [for the table] of Enlil.
302 [enkīdu p]âšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš 302
[Enkidu] opened his mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:
303 [ibrī ana] tušār ništakan qišta 303
“[My friend,] we have reduced the forest [to] a wasteland,
304 [mīn]â ina nippuri nippal ellil 304
[how] shall we answer Enlil in Nippur?
305 [ina du]nnīkunū-ma maṣṣara tanāra 305
‘[In] your might you slew the guardian,
306 [m]inû uzzakunū-ma taraḫḫiṣā qišta 306
what was this wrath of yours that you went trampling the forest?’ ”
307 [u]ltu sebettīšunu mārīšū inārū 307
After they had slain his seven sons,
308 [z]izāna nāʾera simurra šāsâ emqa … ugalla 308
Cricket, Screecher, Typhoon, Screamer, Crafty, …, Storm —
309a [p]āšū šittā biltā ḫaṣṣinātūšunu 309a
Hatchets of two talents each were their axes,
309b […] … ibtatqūni 309b
[…] … they cut off,
310 [n]ikkas (u) ḫamiššer ubān tirik sunginnīšunu 310
three and a half cubits (long) were the chips made by each stroke.
311 gilgāmeš iṣṣī inakkis 311
Gilgameš was cutting down the trees,
312 (u) enkīdu ištenēʾa ḫurbazalla 312

Enkidu was seeking out the best timber.
313 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkara ana gilgāmeš 313
Enkidu opened his mouth to speak, saying to Gilgameš:
314 ibrī nittakis erēna šīḫa 314
My friend, we have cut down a lofty cedar,
315 ša muḫḫašu šamê nakpu 315
whose top abutted the heavens.
316 ēpuš-ma dalta ša šeššet nindan mēlûša šina nindan rupussu
316
I made a door – six rods is its height, two rods its breadth, one cubit its thickness,
317 ištēt ammat uppuša šukûša sāḫirša u šagammaša ša ištēn-ma
317
its pole, its top pivot and its bottom pivot are all of a piece.
318 [ana bīt] e[llil ina nippu]ri lib[il purattu] 318
To the house of Enlil in Nippur the Euphrates shall bear it,
variant₁: ana nippuri libil puratt[u ummān] nippuri l[iḫdu?]
319 [liḫdū-m]a atman [nippuri] 319
[let rejoice] the sanctuary [of Nippur].
320 […] … šurmēnu adi […] 320
They fashioned a raft of logs [of cedar and] cypress,
variant₁: … lar[û …]
321 irtaksū ama ittadû […] 321
they bound together a raft, they laid [cedar on it.]
322 […] … enkīd[u …] 322
[…] … Enkidu […]
variant₁: […] … uššab?
323 enkīdu rakib […] 323
Enkidu was riding… […]
324 u gilgāmeš qaqqad ḫumbāba rakib-m[a …] 324
and Gilgameš rode [too, bearing] the head of Ḫumbaba.

VI

1 imsi malêšu ubbib tillêšu 1
He washed his matted hair, he cleaned his equipment,
2 unassis qimmassu eli ṣērīšu 2
he shook his locks down over his back.
3 iddi maršūtīšu ittalbiš(a) zakūtī(šu) 3
He cast aside his dirty things, he clothed himself with his clean things,
4 āṣâti ittaḫlip(am)-ma rakis aguḫḫa 4
He wrapped himself in cloaks, tied with a sash.
5 gilgāmeš agâšu ītepram-ma‡ 5
Gilgameš put on his crown.
variant₁: gilgā[me]š agâšu itteppiram-ma rakis aguḫḫa
6 ana dumqi ša gilgāmeš īnī ittaši rubūtu ištar 6
The lady Ištar looked covetously on the beauty of Gilgameš:
7 alkam-ma gilgāmeš lū ḫāʾer‡ attā 7
‘Come, Gilgameš, you be the bridegroom!
8 inbīka yâši qâšu qīšam-ma 8
Grant me your fruits, I insist!
9 attā lū mutī-ma anāku lū aššatka 9
You shall be my husband and I will be your wife!
10 lušaṣmidka narkabta uqnâ u ḫurāṣa 10
Let me harness for you a chariot of lapis lazuli and gold,
11 ša magarrūša ḫurāṣum-ma elmēšu qarnāša 11
whose wheels are gold and whose horns are amber.
12 lū ṣamdāta ūmī kūdanī rabûti 12
You shall have in harness “storm-lions”, huge mules.
13 ana bītīni ina sammât erēni erba 13
Come into our house with scents of cedar!
14 [an]a bītīni ina erēbīka 14
When you come into our house,
15 sippu arattû linaššiqū šēpīka 15
doorway and throne shall kiss your feet.
16 lū kamsū ina šaplīka šarrū kabtūtu u rubû 16
Kings, courtiers and nobles shall be bowed down beneath you,
17 [kala? li]qit šadî u māti lū našûnikka bilta 17
Produce of mountain and lowland they shall bring you as tribute!
18 enzātūka takšî laḫrātūka tūʾamī līlidā 18

Your nanny goats shall bear triplets and your ewes twins,
19 mūrka ina bilti parâ libāʾa
your donkey foal under load shall outpace a mule.
20 sīšû ina narkabti lū šaruḫ lasāma
At the chariot your horse shall gallop majestically,
21 [a]lapka ina nīri šānina ai iršiꜞ
at the yoke your ox shall acquire no rival.
22 [gilgāmeš] pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi
[Gilgameš] opened his mouth to speak,
23 [izakkar]a ana rubūti ištar
[saying] to the lady Ištar:
24 [ultū-ma anāk]u ana kâši aḫḫazūki
‘[If indeed I were] to take you in marriage,
25 […] … pagrī u ṣubātī
[...] myself and my clothing,
26 […] kurummatī u bubūtī
[whence will come] my food and my sustenance?
27 [… a]kla sim[at i]lūti
[will you feed me] bread fit for a god?
28 [kurunna? tašaq]qâ simat šarrūti
[will you pour me ale] fit for a king?
29 [… l]ūʾil
[...] should I bind,
30 […] lušpuk
[…] should I pile high?
31 [… ittaḫl]ipa naḫlapta
[Would…] wrap […] in a cloak?
32 [… ana kâš]i? aḫḫazki
‘[Why] would I take you in marriage?
33 [… lā kāṣira]t šurīpi
[You, a frost] that congeals no ice,
34 dalat arkab[inni ša lā i]kallû šāra u zīqa
a slatted door [that does not] block breeze and draught,
35 ēkallu munapp[iṣat] qarradī
a palace that massacres warriors,
36 pīru […] kutummīšu
an elephant [that...] its coverings,
37 ittû muṭ[a]ppil[at qāt?] nāšîša
pitch that [stains the hands] of its bearer,
38 nādu [mur]assât? [(…)] nāšîša
a waterskin that [sullies the hands] of its bearer,
39 pīlu … […] … dūr abni
a boulder that [smashes] a wall of stone,
40 yašubû muʾabbit[at] d[ūr?] māt nukurti
a battering ram that destroys the [walls of] the enemy land,
41 šēnu munaššikat šēpī bēlīša
a shoe that bites the foot of its owner!
42 ayyû ḫāmeraki ib[ū]r ana dāriš
What bridegroom of yours endured forever?
43 ayyû allalki [ša ana šamê] īlû
What brave warrior of yours is there [who] went up [heaven?]
44 alkīm-ma lupp[iš minâ]t ḫarmīkiꜞ
Come, let me count [the number] of your lovers.
45 ša būdim-ma … […] idīšu
As for him of… […] his arm.
46 ana dumuzi ḫāmiri ṣu[ḫr]ētīki
To Dumuzi the husband of your youth,
47 šatta ana šatti bitakkâ taltīmīššu
to him you have allotted perpetual weeping, year on year.
48 allala bitruma tarāmī-ma
You loved the speckled allallu-bird,
49 tamḫaṣīšū-ma kappašuꜞ taltebrī
you struck him and broke his wing,
50 izzazꜞ ina qišātim-(ma) išassi kappī
(now) he stands in the woods crying “My wing!”
51 tarāmī-ma nēša gamirꜞ emūqī
You loved the lion, perfect in strength,
52 sebe u sebe tuḫtarrîšuꜞ šuttāti
seven and seven pits you have dug for him.

variant$_1$: tuḫtarrîšu sebe u sebe šuttāti

53 tarāmī-ma sīsâ naʾid qabli 53
You loved the horse, famed in battle,

54 ištuḫḫa ziqtī u dirrata taltīmīššu 54
to him you have allotted whip, spurs and lash.

55 sebet bēr lasāma taltīmīššu 55
To him you have allotted a seven-league gallop,

56 dalāḫa u šatâ taltīmeššu 56
to him you have allotted muddy water to drink.

57 ana ummīšu silili bitakkâ taltīmī 57
To his mother Silili you have allotted perpetual weeping.

58 tarāmī-ma rēʾâ nāqida utulla 58
You loved the shepherd, the grazier, the herdsman,

59 [ša k]ayyānam-ma tumrī išpukakki‡ 59
who regularly piled up for you (bread baked in) embers,

60 [ūm]išam-ma uṭabbaḫakki unīqēti‡ 60
slaughtering kids for you every day.

61 [tamḫ]aṣīšū-ma ana barbari tutterrīšu 61
You struck him and turned him into a wolf,

62 uṭarradūšu kaparrū ša ramnīšu 62
so his own shepherd boys drive him away,

63 u kalbūšu unaššakū šaprīšu‡ 63
and his dogs take bites at his thighs.

64 tarāmī-ma išullānu nukarib abīki 64
You loved Išullānu, your father’s gardener,

65 ša kayyānam-ma šugurrâ našâkki 65
who regularly brought you a basket of dates,

66 ūmišam-ma unammaru paššūrki 66
daily making your table gleam.

67 īna tattaššîšum-ma tattalkīššu 67
you looked at him covetously and went up to him:

68 išullānî kiššūtaki i nīkul 68
“O my Išullānu, let us taste your power!”

69 u qātka šūṣâm-ma‡ luput ḫurdatni 69
Put out your hand and stroke our vulva!”

70 išūllānu iqabbīki 70
Išullānu spoke to you:

71 yâši mīnâ terrešīnn[i] 71
“Me! What do you want of me?

72 ummī lā tēpâ anāku lā ākul 72
Did my mother not bake? Did I not eat?

73 ša akkalu akla pišāti u errēti 73
Am I to eat bread of insults and curses?

74 ša kuṣṣi elpetu kutummūʾa 74
Shall I let rushes be my covering against the cold?”

75 attī tašmê-ma annâ qabâšu 75
You heard what [he had to] say,

76 tamḫaṣīšu ana dallali tu[tterrīšu] 76
you struck him, you turned [him] into a dwarf.

77 tušēšibīšū-ma ina qabal māna[ḫātīšu] 77
You sat him in the midst of his labours,

78 ul ēlû miḫḫi ul ārid … […] 78
he cannot go up to the …, he cannot go down to the … […]

79 u yâši tarammīnnī-ma kī šâšunu t[utarrīnni] 79
And you would love me and [change me] as (you did) them?’

80 ištar annâ ina šemêša 80
When Ištar [heard] this,

81 ištar uggugat-ma ana šamāmī [īli] 81
Ištar was furious and [went up] to heaven.

82 illik-ma‡ ištar ana pān ān[u] abīšā i[bakki] 82
Ištar went [weeping] before her father, Anu,

83 ana pān antu ummīša illakā dīmāša 83
her tears flowing before Antu, her mother.

84 abī gilgāmeš itta[zzar]anni‡ 84
‘O father, Gilgameš has been heaping abuse on me,

85 gilgāmeš undennâ‡ p[išātī]ya 85
Gilgameš kept recounting things that insult me,

86 pišātīya u errētīya 86
things that insult and revile me.’

87 ānu pāšu īpuš-ma iqabbi 87
Anum opened his mouth to speak,
88 izakkara ana rubūti ištar 88
saying to the lady Ištar:
89 aba lā attī tegrî šarra [gilgā]meš 89
‘Well, was it not you who provoked King Gilgameš,
variant₁: abu attī lā ta[g]gerî šarra gil[g]āmeš
90 (u) gilgāmeš umannâ pišātīki 90
so then Gilgameš recounted things that insult you,
91 pišātīki‡ u er[rētīki] 91
things that insult and revile you?’
92 ištar pâša! īpuš-ma iqabbi 92
Ištar opened her mouth to speak,
93 izakkara ana ānu abīša 93
saying to her father, Anu:
94 abī alâ bīnam-ma 94
‘O father, give me, please, the Bull of Heaven,
95 gilgāmeš lunēr[u i]na šubtīšu 95
that I may slay Gilgameš in his dwelling.
96 šum[ma] alâ l[ā t]addan[a] 96
If you will not give me the Bull of Heaven,
97 amaḫḫaṣ [danni]na? adi šubtīšu 97
I shall smash the underworld together with its dwelling-place,
98 ašak[ka]n … […] ana šaplāt[i] 98
to the world below I shall grant [manumission,]
99 ušellâm-ma [mī]tūti ikkalū ba[lṭ]ūti 99
I shall bring up the dead to consume the living,
100 eli balṭūti ušamʾ[ad](u) mītūti 100
I shall make the dead outnumber the living.’
101 ānu pâšu īpuš-m[a iq]a[bbi] 101
Anu opened his mouth to speak,
102 izakkara ana rubūti iš[tar] 102
saying to the lady Ištar:
103 š[u]mma alâ terrešī[nni] 103
‘If you will ask of me the Bull of Heaven,
104 almatti uruk sebe šanāti pî lipaḫḫi[r] 104
for seven years let the widow of Uruk gather chaff,
105 [ikkar uruk? l]irabbi šamm[ī] 105
[and the farmer of Uruk] grow hay.’
106 [ištar pâša īpu]š-ma iqabbi 106
[Ištar opened her mouth] to speak,
107 [izakkara ana ān]u abīš[a] 107
[saying to] her father, Anu:
108 […] … akkum 108
[...] already I stored,
109 […] … ušabši 109
[...] I made grow.
110 alm[atti uruk sebe ša]nāti pî [upta]ḫḫir 110
[For seven] years the widow [of Uruk has] gathered chaff,
111 ikk[ar uruk? urtabbi] šammī 111
the farmer [of Uruk has grown] hay.
112 a[n]a uzzi? ša alê … (šâšu)‡ 112
With the wrath of the Bull I shall [have vengeance!]
113 [i]šmē-ma ānu an[n]â qabâ iš[tar] 113
Anu heard this speech of Ištar,
114 [u ṣ]erret alêm-ma ana qātīša išku[n] 114
[and] he placed in her hands the nose-rope of the Bull of Heaven.
115 […] … ireddâššu ištar 115
[Down came] Ištar, leading it onward:
116 an[a māt]i ša uruk ina kašād[īšu] 116
when [it] reached the [land] of Uruk,
117 ūtabbil qišta appara u qan[â] 117
it dried up the woodland, the marshland and the reeds,
variant₁: [ūtabbil] apa q[iš]ta u qan[ê]
118 urid ana nāri sebe ammat nāru u[md]aṭṭi 118
it went down to the river, (the level of) the river was reduced by seven cubits.
119 ina nipšīšu ša alê šuttatu ippetē-ma 119
At the snort of the Bull of Heaven a pit opened up,
120 ištēn mē eṭlūtu ša uruk imtaqqutū ina libbi 120

a hundred men of Uruk all fell into it.
121 ina‡ šanî nipšīšu šuttatu ippetē-ma 121
At its second snort a pit opened up,
122 šinā mē eṭlūtu ša uruk imtaqqutū ana libbi 122
two hundred men of Uruk all fell into it.
variant₁: [ina šanî nipšīsu ša alê šuttatu ippetē-ma šinā m]ē eṭlūtu [imtaqqutū] ana libbi
123 ina šalši nipšīšū šuttatu ippetē-ma 123
At its third snort a pit opened up,
variant₁: [ina šalši nipšīšu ša alê šuttatu ip]petē-ma šalši mē eṭlūtu [imtaqqutū] ana libbi
124 enkīdu imtaqut adi qabl[īšu] 124
Enkidu fell in up to [his] waist.
variant₁: [ina rebî nipšīšu ša al]ê šuttatu ippetē-ma enkīdu [imtaqut a]di qablīšu
125 i[šḫiṭam-ma enkīd]u alâ iṣṣ[abat] [in]a qarnī[šu] 125
Enkidu sprang out and seized the Bull of Heaven by [its] horns;
variant₁: išḫiṭam-ma enkīdu el[i …]
126 alû ana‡ panīšu issuka rupu[šta] 126
the Bull of Heaven spat slaver at his face,
127 ina kubur zibbatīšu [ka]būssu [iddi?] 127
[flicking] its dung with the tuft of its tail.
128 enkīdu pâšu īpuš-ma [iqabbi] 128
Enkidu opened his mouth [to speak,]
129 izakkara ana gilgā[meš] 129
saying to Gilgameš:
130 ibrī nuštarri[ḫ ina] āl[īni?] 130
‘My friend, we vaunted ourselves [in our] city,
131 kī nippala kamrāti ni[šī] 131
how shall we make amends for the piled-up people?
132 ibrī ātamar dunnašu ša al[ê] 132
My friend, I have experienced the might of the Bull of Heaven,
133 u emūqīšu alammadu têrētī[šu? …] 133
so learning [its] strength, [and knowing its] purpose.
134 lussaḫr[a lūmu]r? dunnašu ša a[lê] 134
I will once again [experience] the might of the Bull of [Heaven,]
135 ana kutal alê … […] 135
I [shall get me] behind [the Bull of Heaven,]
136 luṣbas[sū-ma ina kubur zibbatīšu] 136
I will seize [it by the tuft of its tail.]
137 lušk[un šēpī ina arkat? siqqīšu] 137
I will set [my foot on the back of its hock,]
138 ina … […] 138
in... [... I will ...it.]
139 u [att]ā kī ṭ[ābiḫi (…) qardi u l]ēʾî 139
Then [you] like a [butcher (…), brave and] skilful,
140 ina birīt t[ikki qa]rnī u naplaki patarka um[mi]d 140
press home your knife between the yoke of the horns and the slaughter-spot.’
141 iṣūdam-ma‡ enkīdu ana kutal alê 141
Enkidu circled round behind the Bull of Heaven,
142 [i]ṣbassū-ma ina [kubu]r zibbatīšu 142
he seized it by the [tuft] of its tail.
143 [išku]n šēpšu i[na arka]t siqqīš[u] 143
[He set] his foot on [the back of] its hock,
144 [ina …] … 144
[in...he] ... it.
145 u gilgāmeš kī ṭ[ābiḫi (…)] qardi u [lē]ʾî 145
Then Gilgameš like a butcher [(…)], brave and skilful,
146 ina birīt tikki qarnī u n[a]plaki pataršu [ummid] 146
[pressed home] his knife between the yoke of the horns and the slaughter-spot.
147 ištu alâ inārū 147
After they had slain the Bull of Heaven,
148 libbašu iššûn[im-ma] ana pān šamaš ištaknū 148
they took its heart and set it before Šamaš.
149 irēqūnim-ma ana‡ pān šamaš [u]škennū 149
They stepped back and prostrated themselves before Šamaš,
150 ittašbū aḫāmiš kilallān 150
both of them (then) sat down together.
151 īlī-ma ištar ina muḫḫi dūri ša uruk supūri 151
Ištar went up on to the wall of Uruk-the-Sheepfold,

152 išḫiṭ ḫuppa ittadi arūrū[ta] 152
she hopped and stamped, she uttered a woeful wail:
153 allû gilgāmeš ša uṭappilanni alâ iddūku 153
‘Woe to Gilgameš, who vilified me, (who) killed the Bull of Heaven!’
variant₁: gilgāmeš [alâ? id]dūk ša uṭappilanni
154 išmē-ma enkīdu annâ qabê‡ ištar 154
Enkidu heard this speech of Ištar,
155 išluḫ imitti alê(m-ma) ana pānīša‡ iddi‡ 155
he tore a haunch off the Bull of Heaven and threw it down before her.
156 u (ak)kâši lū akšudki kī šâšū-ma lū ēpuški‡ 156
‘You too, had I caught you, I would have treated you like it!
157 errīšu lū ālula ina aḫīki 157
I would have draped its guts on your arms!’
158 uptaḫḫir‡ ištar kezrēti (šamḫāti) u ḫarimāti 158
Ištar assembled the courtesans, prostitutes (and harlots),
159 ina muḫḫi imitti (ša) alê bikīta iškun 159
she instituted mourning over the Bull of Heaven’s haunch.
160 issī-ma gilgāmeš ummâna kiškattê kalāma 160
Gilgameš summoned the craftsmen, all the smiths,
variant₁: paḫr[ūni]m-ma ummânū kiskattê kalîšun
161 kubur qarnīšu unaʾʾadū‡ mārū ummâni 161
for the craftsmen to praise the thickness of its horns.
162 šalāšā manā uqnû šipikšina 162
Thirty minas of lapis lazuli each was their mass,
163 šinnû manê taḫbâtūšina 163
Two minas each their rims,
variant₁: [š]innû ubānī taḫbâtūšina
164 šeššet kur šamnu (ana) ṣibit kilallē‡ 164
six kor of oil was the capacity of both.
165 ana piššat ilīšu lugalbanda iqīš 165
He dedicated (them) for the anointing of his god, Lugalbanda,
variant₁: [ana] piššat lugalbanda ilīšu iqīš
166 ušērib-ma ītalal ina urši ḫammūtīšu 166
he took (them) in and hung (them) in his bed-chamber.
167 ina puratti imsû qātīšun 167
They washed their hands in the River Euphrates,
168 iṣṣabtūnim-ma‡ illakūni 168
they took each other (by the hand) to go forward.
169 sūqa ša uruk rakbūn[i] 169
As they drove along the street of Uruk,
170 paḫrā nišū ša uruk idagg[al]ā[šunūti] 170
the people of Uruk were gathered to look [at them.]
171 gilgāmeš ana muttabbilāti ša ēka[llīšu?] amāta izak[kar]
171
Gilgameš spoke a word to the serving girls of [his house:]
172 mannum-ma bani ina eṭlūti 172
‘Who is the finest among men?
173 mannum-ma šaruḫ ina zikkarī 173
Who is the most glorious of fellows?’
174 gilgāmeš bani ina eṭlūti 174
‘Gilgameš is the finest among men!
175 [gilgāmeš šar]uḫ ina zikkarī 175
[Gilgameš is the most] glorious of fellows!’
176 [… n]īdû i[n]a uzzīni 176
‘[...whom] we knew in our fury!’
177 [… in]a sūqīšu muṭapp[il]a ul īšu 177
‘[...in] the street he has none that defames him,
178 […] … [(…) a]lakti ša … […] … 178
[…] … […] way of his […!]’
179 gilgāmeš ina ēkallīšu išt[a]kan ḫidûta 179
Gilgameš made merry in his palace.
180 utūlū-ma‡ eṭlūtu ša‡ ina mayyāl mūši ṣallū 180
The men were lying down, that were asleep on beds for the night,
181 utūl-ma‡ enkīdu šunata inaṭṭal 181
Enkidu was lying down, seeing a dream.
182 itbē-ma enkīdu šunata ipaššar 182
Enkidu arose to reveal the dream,
183 izakkara ana ibrīšu 183
saying to his friend:

VII

1 ibrī aššu mīnâ-ma imtallikū ilū rabûtu 1
‘My friend, for what reason were the great gods taking counsel?’
(On present evidence a sequence of 101 lines is obtained between the end of col. i and the start of col. iv on MS NinNA1. We can therefore assume that columns of NinNA1 were each about 50 lines long. Thus, at the bottom of col. i, NinNA1b i 1'-24' will be ll. 27-50, and accordingly the text resumes after a gap of 25 lines:)
27 … […] 27
… […]
28 enkīdu p[âšu īpuš-ma iqabbi] 28
Enkidu [opened his mouth to speak,]
29 izakkara [ana gilgāmeš] 29
saying [to Gilgameš:]
30 alka i[brī …] 30
‘Come, [my] friend, […]
31 ina … […] 31
in … […]
32 daltu […] 32
The door […]
33 aššu […] 33
because … […]’
34 […]
35 […]
36 ina … […] … […] 36
in … […] … […]
37 enkīdu […] ittaši [īnīšu] 37
Enkidu […] raised [his eyes,]
38 itti dalti [ī]tammâ kī […] 38
talking with the door like [… :]
39 dalat ḫalbi [in]a lā … […] 39
‘O door of the woodland, not being … […,]
40 bašât uznī ša lā ibašš[û …] 40
I have understanding, which [you] have not.
41 ana ešrā bēr assuqa iṣāki […] 41
For twenty leagues I sought for you the [finest] timber,
42 adi erēna šīḫa āmuru […] 42
until [in the forest] I found a tall cedar.
43 ul īšu aḫâ i(ṣ)ṣūki […] 43
‘Your tree had no rival [in the Forest of Cedar:]
44 šeššet nindan mēlûki šina nindan rupuški ištēn [ammat ūb]ū[ki] 44
six rods is your height, two rods your breadth, one [cubit your] thickness,
45 šukûki sāḫirki u šagammaki [š]a ištēn-m[a] 45
your pole, its top pivot and its bottom pivot are all of a piece;
46 ēpuški aššakki ina nippuri elāniš artetīka? 46
I made you, I raised you up, in Nippur I hung you upright.
47 lū īde dalat kī annû [gimilk]i 47
Had I but known, O door, that this would be your [reward,]
48 lū īde dalat kī annû dumuqki 48
had I but known, O door, that this would be your bounty,
49 lū aššī pāša lū akkis(a) k[âši] 49
I would have picked up an axe, I would have cut you down,
50 ama lū ušarkibak[ki an]a ebabbarra 50
I would have shipped you by raft to E-babbarra.
51 [ana] ebabbarra bīt šamaš lū uš[ābilakki] 51
[To] E-babbarra, the temple of Šamaš, I would have brought [you,]
52 [ina …] ebabbarra erēna lū azq[up] 52
I would have set [up] the cedar [in the gate] of E-babbarra.
53 [ina] bābīšu lū ušziz anz[â …] 53
[In] its doorway I would have stood Lion-Bird [and bull colossus,]
54 […] … nērebīki l[ū …] 54
[…] … your entrance I would have […]
55 lū … […] ša āli […] ša[maš] 55
I would have … […] the city […] Šamaš,
56 u ina uruk … […] 56
and in Uruk … […,]
57 aššu šamaš iš[m]û qabâya 57
because Šamaš heard what I said,

58 ina ūm? … […] … kakka it[tann]a? 58
and in time of [peril] … he [gave] me a weapon.
59 eninna dalat anāku ēpuški anāku aššâ[kki] 59
Now, O door, it was I who made you, I who raised [you] up!
60 anāk[u … anāk]u anassaḫki 60
I [also can curse you, I also can] tear you down!
61 lū šarru ša illâ arkīya lizērki 61
May either a king who comes after me abhor you,
62 lū … […] … lirtekī-ma 62
or … hang you [where you cannot be seen,]
63 šumī linakkir-ma šumšu lišku[n] 63
May he remove my name and set up his own!’
64 ittasaḫ […] … iddi 64
He ripped off [his garments,] cast [his finery] away,
65 amâtīšu ištenemmâ ḫanṭiš ḫarpiš i[llakā dimā]šu 65
As he was listening to his words, swiftly and soon his [tears were flowing.]
66 gilgāmeš amâti ša enkīdu ibrīšu ištene[mmâ] 66
As Gilgameš was listening to the words of Enkidu, his friend,
67 [ḫanṭiš ḫarpiš illa]kā dimā[šu] 67
[swiftly and soon his] tears were [flowing.]
68 gilgāmeš pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi izakkar ana enkīd[u] 68
Gilgameš opened his mouth to speak, saying to Enkidu:
69 [ibrī …] šūpû 69
[‘My friend, …] … […] manifest,
70 [ša u]znī ṭēma rašû šanâtī-ma […] … […] 70
[do you, who] had understanding and reason, [now speak] madness?
71 [amm]īni ibrī idbub libbaka šanâti […] 71
Why, my friend, did your heart talk profanities […?]
72 [šuttu šū]qurat-ma pirittu maʾdat 72
[the dream] was precious and the apprehension was much.
73 [šaptāka? (…)] ḫamâ kīma zubbī 73
[your feverish lips] were buzzing like flies,
74 [pulḫū? m]aʾdū šuttu aqrat 74
[the misgivings were] great, the dream was rare.
75 ana ba[lṭ]i īzib nasāsa 75
“To the one who survived grieving was left,
76 [(…) mīt]u ana balṭi nissata īzib 76
the [deceased] left sorrow to the one who survived.”
77 [luṣall]ī-ma lusappâ ilī rabûti 77
[I will] beseech the great gods and entreat them,
78 [šamaš? l]ušteʾʾa ilaka lusḫu[r] 78
I will seek out [Šamaš], I will appeal to your god.
79 [l]ukr[ub ana ānu] abi ilī [ina maḫrīka?] 79
‘In [your presence] I will pray [to Anu,] father of the gods,
80 [lišm]e enlil māliku rabû ina maḫrīka ikri[bīya?] 80
[May] Enlil, the great counsellor, [hear my] prayers in your presence,
81 [l]ū ut[nenni? …] 81
may [my entreaty find favour with Ea!]
82 [ḫurā]ṣa lā mīni ṣalamka lūpuš 82
I will make a statue of you in gold without limit,
83 […] … […] 83
[…] … […]
84 [ibrī ka]spa lā tanaddin ḫurāṣa l[ā …] … lā […] 84
‘[My friend,] you must not give silver, you must not … gold, [you must] not […]
85 [ša enl]il iqbû ul kī ša ilī ša … […] 85
The word [Enlil] spoke is not such that the gods can rescind,
86 [ša i]qbû ul itūr ul i[pšiṭ] 86
“[What he] commanded, he did not [erase] again,
87 [ša] dešša iddû ul itūr ul ipšiṭ 87
He does not erase [a single] wedge he writes down
88 ibrī uṣṣu[rā …] 88
My friend, [my destiny is] drawn,
89 i[na l]ā šīmātīšina nišū illakā 89
people do go prematurely to their fate.’
90 mimmû šēru ina n[am]ā[ri] 90
At the very first light of dawn,
91 i[šš]i rēšīšu enkīdu ana pān šamaš una[bbi!] 91
Enkidu lifted up his head, lamenting before Šamaš,
92 a[na p]ān šarūrī ša šamaš illakā dimā[šu] 92

his tears flowing before the rays of the sun:
93 [amḫ]urka šamaš aššu aqrati napištī[ya] 93
‘[I appeal] to you, O Šamaš, on account of (my) life so precious!
94 [šū?] ṣayyādu ḫabbilu amēlu 94
[As for him, that] hunter, the trapper-man,
95 ša lā ušamṣânni mala ibrīya 95
who did not let me be a match for my friend,
96 [ṣayy]ādu ay imṣâ mala ibrīšu 96
may the hunter not be a match for his friend!
97 nēmelšu ḫulliq idīšu muṭṭi 97
Destroy his income, diminish his earnings!
variant₁: [nēme]lšu lū ḫaliq-ma idīšu muṭṭi
98 [lū ḫarṣ]a[t z]ittašu ina maḫrīka 98
[May] his share of the profits be [cut] in your presence!
99 [… aš]ar irrub(u) līṣi‡ apāniš 99
[The house where he enters, may [its god] leave by the window!’
100 [ultu ṣ]ayyāda izzuru mala libbīšu 100
[After] he had cursed the hunter to his heart’s content,
101 [u ḫarim]ta šamḫat libbašu arāra ubla 101
he decided to curse [the harlot] Šamḫat [also:]
102 [al]kī šamḫat šīmata lušīmki 102
‘Come, Šamḫat, I will determine a destiny for you,
103 [šī]mat lā iqattû ana dūr dār 103
a destiny that will not end for all eternity:
104 [lu]zzurki izra rabâ 104
[I will] curse you with a great curse,
105 [u ḫa]nṭiš! ḫarpiš izrūʾa liṭḫûki kâši 105
[and] my curses shall afflict you swiftly and soon!
106 [ē t]ēpušī bīt lalêki 106
[May you not] found a household to delight in,
107 [lā? t]arammî? […] ša taḫûtīki 107
[never to] reside in the [midst] of a family!
108 [ē tu]šbī ina kussî ša ardāti 108
[May you not] sit in the young women’s chair!
109 [ṣubātk]i damq[a qaq]qa[ru] lišaḫḫi 109
May the ground defile your fine-looking [garment!]
110 [lubār isinnātīki šakru] ina [turbuʾ]i liballil 110
May [the drunkard] smear [with dust your festive gown!]
111 [ē taršî bīt …] u banâti 111
[May you not acquire a house with …] and lovely things,
112 […] … ša paḫāri 112
‘[For your home shall serve] a potter’s [clay pit!]
113 […] … mimma ē taršî 113
You shall have [neither bedroom, nor family shrine, nor hearth!]
114 [eršu kuss]û paššūru šamuḫ nišī ay innadi ina bītīki 114
No bed, chair or table, that people take pride in, shall be found in your chamber!
115 [dinnûtki ša l]alêm-ma lū dakkannu 115
May [the bed you] delight in be a bench!
116 [išpallurtu š]a ḫarrāni lū mūšabūki 116
May [the junction] of the highway be where you sit!
117 [ḫurbātu lū m]aṣallūki ṣilli dūri lū manzāzūki 117
[May the ruined houses be] where you sleep! May the lee of the city wall be where you stand!
118 [baltu u a]šāgu liqallipū šēpīki 118
May [thorn and] briar skin your feet!
119 [šakru u ṣ]amû limḫaṣ lētki 119
May [drunk and] sober strike your cheek!
120 [… l]ū bēlet dīnī-ma elīki lilsi 120
[May …] be plaintiff, may she claim against you!
121 [ūr bītki] ai isēr itinnu 121
May the builder not plaster [the roof of your house!]
122 [… l]irbiṣ qadû 122
[In your chamber] shall roost an owl!
123 [… ai išš]akin qirētu 123
‘[Never in your house shall] banquet take place!
124 […] 124
[…]
125 […] 125
[…]
126 […] … […] 126

[…] … […]
127 […lub]ār takilt[i …] 127
‘[…] purple raiment […]
128 … sūni … […] 128
… of the defiled lap […]
129 ša sūnšu … […] 129
whose lap is defiled […]
130 aššu yâši [ella tušamṭînni] 130
Because [you made] me [weak], me [who was pure!]
131 u yâši ella [tušamṭîn]ni ina ṣērīya 131
And me who was pure, [you made] me [weak] when I was in the wild.’
132 šamaš išmâ [ziki]r pîšu 132
Šamaš heard [what] he had spoken,
133 ultu ullânum-ma t[ukku ult]u šamê iltanassâššu 133
straight away a [voice] was crying to him [from] the heavens:
134 ammēni enkīdu ḫarim[t]a šamḫat tananzar 134
‘Why, O Enkidu, do you curse the harlot Šamḫat,
135 ša ušākilūka akla simat ilūti 135
who gave you bread to eat, fit for a god,
136 kurunna išqûka simat šarrūti 136
gave you beer to drink, fit for a king,
137 ulabbišūka lubša rabâ 137
clothed you in a great garment,
138 u damqa gilgāmeš tappâ ušaršûka kâša 138
and let you have for a comrade the fine Gilgameš?
139 [en]innā-ma gilgāmeš ibri talīmīka 139
Now Gilgameš, your friend and brother,
140 [ušn]ālka-ma ina mayyāli rabî 140
[will] lay you out on a great bed.
141 [in]a mayyāl taknî ušnālkā-ma 141
[On] a bed of honour he will lay you out,
142 [uše]ššebka šubta nēḫta šubat šumēli 142
[he will] set you on a restful seat, the seat to (his) left,
143 [malk]ū ša qaqqari unaššaqū šēpīka 143
[the princes] of the earth will kiss your feet.
144 [ušabk]âkka nišī ša uruk ušadmamakka 144
[He will make] weep for you the people of Uruk, he will make them sob for you,
145 [šamḫāti] nišī umallâkka dulla 145
the people [so bonny] he will fill full of grief for you.
146 [u š]ū arkīka ušaššâ malâ pagaršu 146
[And] he, after you are gone he will have himself bear the matted locks of mourning,
147 [iltabbi]š maški labbim-ma irappud ṣ[ēra] 147
[he will don] the skin of a lion and go roaming the [wild.]’
148 [išmē-ma e]nkīdu amāt šamaš qurā[di] 148
Enkidu [heard] the words of Šamaš the hero,
149 […a]gga libbašu inūḫ-[ma] 149
[…] his angry heart grew calm,
150 […e]zza [libbašu] inū[ḫ-ma] 150
[… his] furious [heart grew] calm.
151 a[lkī] š[amḫat šīmata lušīmki] 151
‘Come, [Šamḫat, I shall determine a destiny for you,]
152 p[īya ša izzu]rūki litūr likr[ubki] 152
[my] mouth [that] cursed you shall return and bless [you:]
153 [šakkanakk]ū u rubû liršamūk[i] 153
May [governors] and noblemen love you,
154 [ša ištēn bēr l]imḫaṣ šaparšu 154
may he [that is one league (distant)] slap his thigh!
155 š[a šinā bēr l]inassisa qimmassu 155
May he [that is two leagues (distant)] shake out his locks,
156 [ay iklâkk]i rēdû miserrašu lipṭurki 156
may no soldier [be slow] to undo his belt for you!
157 li[ddinki] ṣurra uqnâ u ḫurāṣa 157
May he [give you] obsidian, lapis lazuli and gold,
158 in[ṣabt]ū tutturrû lū nidinki 158
multiple earrings shall be your gift!
159 ana eṭl[i ša kunnū] kunūnūšu išpikkūšu šapkū 159
To a man whose household [is well off], whose storage bins are heaped high,
160 i[štar lēʾâ]t ilī lušēribki kâši 160
may Ištar, [the most able] of the gods, send you in!

161 [aššumīki li]nnezib ummi sebetti ḫīrtu 161
[On your account may] the first wife be deserted, the mother of seven!’
162 [ša enkīd]u marṣat karassu 162
[As for Enkidu], his mind was deranged.
163 uš[tabba]l ittâl ēdānuššu 163
He was lying on his own [thinking,]
164 ida[bbub-ma mi]mmû kabtatīšu ana ibrīšu 164
what was on his mind he told to his friend:
165 mimmû ibrī [š]unat aṭṭul mušītīya 165
‘Quite something, my friend, (was) the dream I saw during the course of this night!
166 ilsû šamû qaqqaru īpul 166
the heavens thundered, the earth responded,
167 ina birīšunu azzaz anāku 167
with me standing (there) between them.
168 ša ištēn eṭli ukkulū pānūšu 168
There was a man, his expression was grim,
169 ana ša anzî pānūšu mašlū 169
his face was like that of an Anzû-bird.
170 ritti nēši rittā[š]u ṣupur arî ṣupurāšu 170
His hands were a lion’s paws, his claws an eagle’s talons,
171 iṣbat qimmātīya udanninanni yâši 171
he took hold of my locks, he was too strong for me.
172 amḫassū-ma kīma keppê išaḫḫiṭ 172
I struck him but he sprang back like a skipping-rope,
173 imḫaṣanni-ma kīma ami uṭṭebbânn[i] 173
he struck me and capsized me like a raft.
174 kīma rīmi dan[ni irḫ]iṣ elīy[a] 174
Like a mighty wild bull he trampled over me,
175 imta … […] … pagrīya 175
[drenching] my body with poisonous slaver.
176 šūzibanni ibr[ī …] … 176
“Rescue me, my friend! […]”
177 taplaḫšū-m[a …] 177
But you were afraid of him and […]
178 atta … […] 178
You … […]’
179 […] … […] 179
[…] … […]
(A short lacuna is placed at this point, though a slight overlap between MSS NinNA4b and NinNA4a cannot be ruled out.)
180 […] … […] 180
[…] … […]
181 […] … […] 181
[…] … […]
182 [imḫaṣanni kīm]a sum[mi yâ]ši utterranni 182
‘[He struck] me, he turned me into a dove.
183 [iks]ī-ma kīma iṣṣūri idīya 183
[He bound] my arms like (the wings of) a bird,
184 [ṣ]abtanni ireddânni ana bīt eklēti šubat‡ irkalla 184
to lead me captive to the house of darkness, the seat of Irkalla:
185 ana bīti ša ēribūšu lā āṣû 185
to the house which those who enter cannot leave,
186 ana ḫarrāni ša alaktaša lā tayyārat 186
on the journey whose way cannot be retraced;
187 ana bīti ša āšibūšu zummû nūra 187
to the house whose residents are deprived of light,
188 ašar epru bubūssina-ma akalšina ṭiṭṭu 188
where dust is their sustenance, their food clay.
189 labšā-ma kīma iṣṣūri ṣubāt kappī 189
They are clad like birds in coats of feathers,
190 u nūra lā immarā-(ma) ina eṭûti ašbā 190
and they cannot see light (but) dwell in darkness.
191 eli dal[ti u sikkūri šabuḫ epru] 191
On the door [and the bolt the dust lies thick,]
192 eli b[īt(i) (epri) šaḫurratu tabkat] 192
on the House [(of Dust) a deathly quiet is poured.]
193 ana bīt epri ša ērubu anāku 193
In the House of Dust that I entered,
194 appa[lsam-m]a kummusū agû 194

I looked and (saw) the crowns stowed away:
195 ašb[ū šarrū] šūt agê ša ultu ūmē pāna ibēlū māta 195
there sat [kings], the crowned heads who ruled the land since days of old,
196 [ina] paššūr āni u ellil ištakkanū šumê šīri 196
who used to serve roasted meat [at the] tables of Anu and Enlil,
197 epâ ištakkanū kaṣûti‡ ištaqqû‡ mê nādāti 197
who used to serve baked (bread), to pour chilled water from skins.
198 ana bīt epri ša ērubu‡ anāku 198
In the House of Dust that I entered,
199 [a]šbū enū u lagārū 199
there sat en-priests and lagar-priests;
200 [aš]bū išippū u lumaḫḫū 200
there sat purification priests and lumaḫḫu-priests,
201 [ašb]ū gudapsû ša ilī rabûti 201
there sat the gudapsû-priests of the great gods;
202 [a]šib etana ašib šakkan 202
there sat Etana, there sat Šakkan,
203 [ašbat š]arrat erṣeti ereškigal 203
[there sat the] queen of the netherworld, Ereškigal
204 [bēlet ṣ]ēri ṭupšarrat erṣeti maḫarša kamsat 204
Before her was squatting [Bēlet]-ṣēri, the scribe of the netherworld,
205 [ṭuppa n]ašât-ma iltanassi ina maḫrīša 205
holding [a tablet] and reading aloud in her presence.
206 [išši r]ēšīša īmuranni yâši 206
[She raised] her head, she saw me:
207 [mann]um-ma ilqâ annâ amēla 207
“[Who was] it fetched this man here?
208 [mannum-ma? …] ubla 208
[Who was it] brought [this fellow] here?
209 [… ušt]ērsi 209
[…] made ready,
210 [… k]imāḫu 210
[…] tomb.”
(Lacuna. Enkidu continues relating what befell him in the Netherworld:)
211 […] … 211
[…] …
212 […] … 212
[…] …
213 […] … 213
‘[…] me,
214 [… ereš k]igal 214
[…] Ereškigal.
215 […] abūbu 215
[…] the deluge.’
216 […] … 216
[…] …
217 […] … 217
[…] …
(Another short lacuna occurs between MSS NinNA1c and NinNA4b:)
220 […] … 220
[…] …
221 [… āt]amar zumuršu 221
‘[…] I saw his person.’
222 […] … 222
[…] …
223 […] … 223
[…] …
224 […] … 224
[…] …
225 […] … 225
[…] …
226 […] … 226
[…] …
(The rest of col. v is lost, and, after a further gap, the text resumes with col. vi. It is assumed that MS NinNA1b begins col. vi at l. 252. The line represented by the trace at MS NinNA2 vi 1’ is at least the ninth line of the column.)
249 … […] 249
… […]
250 … […] 250

… […]
        251   š[a ittīka attall]aku kalû marṣ[āti]   251
‘(Me) who [endured] all hardships [with you,]
        252   ḫus[sanni ibr]ī mimmû attallaku ē [tamši]   252
remember [me,] my [friend,] lest [you forget] all I went through.’
        253   ibrī īmur‡ šutta ša lā … […]   253
‘My friend saw a vision which will never [be equalled]’
        254   ūm šutta iṭṭulu gamir [emūqšu?]   254
The day he saw the dream [his strength] was exhausted.
        255   nadī-ma enkīdu ištēn ūma mar[uṣ šanâ ūma]   255
Enkidu was cast down and (lay) sick for one day, [a second day.]
        256   ša enkīdu ina mayyālīšu […]   256
Enkidu [lay] on his bed, [his sickness worsened,]
        257   šalša ūma‡ u rebâ ūma š[a enkīdu …]   257
A third day and a fourth day, [the sickness of Enkidu worsened]
        258   ḫanša šešša u sebâ samānâ tišâ (u) ešrâ   258
a fifth, a sixth and a seventh, an eighth, a ninth and a tenth (day).
        259   ša enkīdu murṣu … […]   259
the sickness of Enkidu worsened…
        260   ištēššerâ u šinšerâ ūma […]   260
an eleventh and a twelfth day, […]
        261   enkīdu ina mayyāl[i …]   261
Enkidu on the bed […]
        262   ilsī-ma gilgāmeš … […]   262
he called to Gilgameš and […:]
        263   izzēranni ibr[ī …]   263
‘[My god] has spurned me, my friend, […]
        264   kī ša ina qereb qa[bli imqutu? …]   264
[I do not die] like one who [falls] in the midst of battle.
        265   ādur tāḫāzam-ma […]   265
I was afraid of combat […,]
        266   ibrī ša ina tāḫ[āzi imqutu …]   266
my friend, one who [falls] in combat [makes his name,]
        267   anāku ina t[āḫāzi? …]   267
but I, [I do not fall] in [combat, and shall make not my name.]
(31 or 32 lines missing to end, including catch-line and colophon.)
        298   […]   298
[…]

VIII

1   mimmû šēri ana namāri   1
At the very first light of dawn,
        2   gilgā[meš ibakki an]a ibrīšu   2
Gilgameš [was mourning] for his friend:
        3   enkī[du ša u]mmaka ṣabītu   3
O Enkidu, [whom] your mother, a gazelle,
        4   (u) akkannu abūka i[bnû]ka? kâša   4
(and) your father, a wild donkey, [created,]
        5   ša se[rrēmū in]a šezibbīšin urabbûka‡ kâša   5
whom the wild [asses] reared with their milk,
        6   u bū[l ṣēri ušē]dû<ka> kal merêti   6
and the animals [of the wild taught] all the pastures!
        7   ḫarranātu enkīdu [ša] qišti erēni   7
May the paths, O Enkidu, [of] the Cedar Forest
        8   [libk]ânikku‡ ay … mūša urra   8
[mou]rn you [without pause,] by day and by night!
        9   lib[kûnikku] šībūt āli rapši ša uruk supūri   9
May the elders of the populous city of Uruk-the-Sheepfold mourn you!
        10   libkûnikku ummānu [š]a?‡ ikarrabū arkīni   10
May the crowd who would give blessings behind us [mourn you!]
        11   libkīk[a … e]lûti ša šadî ḫursānī   11
May the high [peaks] of hills and mountains mourn you,
        12   […] … ella   12
[…] … pure.
        13   linabbâ qerbētu kīma‡ ummīka   13
May the pastures lament like your mother!
        14   libkīka t[askarinnu?] šurmēnu erēnu   14
May [boxwood,] cypress and cedar mourn you,

15 ša ina birīssunu niḫtallupu (ina uzzīni) 15
through whose midst we crept in our fury!
16 libkīku asu būṣu nimru mindinu lulīmu dumāmu 16
May the bear mourn you, the hyena, panther, cheetah, stag and jackal,
17 nēšu rīmu ayyalu turāḫu būl(u) (u) nammaššû (ša) ṣēri 17
the lion, wild bull, deer, ibex, the herds and animals of the wild!
18 libkīka ulāya qadištu ša šamḫiš nittallaku ina aḫīša 18
May the sacred River Ulāy mourn you, along whose banks we would walk so lustily!
19 libkīku elletu purattu 19
May the holy Euphrates mourn you,
20 š[a nit]taqqû mê nād(āt)i 20
which [we used] to pour in libation (as) water from skins!
21 [libk]ûnikku eṭlūtu ša uruk [s]upūr[i] 21
May the young men of Uruk-the-Sheepfold mourn you,
variant₁: libkīka eṭlūt āli rapašti uru[k supūri]
22 [š]a tāḫāzni iṭṭulū alâ ninmāru 22
[who] watched our battle, as we slew the Bull of Heaven!
23 libkīku ikkaru ina mu[ḫḫi …] 23
May the ploughman mourn you in [his furrow],
24 ša (ina) alāla ṭabi ušēlû šumka 24
[who] will extol your name with his sweet work-song!
25 [libkânikku …] … āli rapši ša u[ruk supūri] 25
May the … of the populous city of Uruk-the-Sheepfold mourn you,
26 … maḫrî ušēlâ šumka 26
[who] will extol your name [with] the first …!
variant₁: [ša ina? … m]aḫrî ušēṣ[â …]
27 [libkīku n]āqidu … […] 27
May the shepherd mourn you [in his cow pen,]
28 [ša šizba šikar]a u ḫīqa … […] 28
[who] made sweet [for your mouth] the milk, beer and butter!
variant₁: [ša šiz]ib šikara ḫimēta ukinnu ina pîka
29 [libkīku kapar]ru‡ … […] 29
May [the shepherd boy] mourn you […,]
30 [ša i]štak(k)an(u) ina šaptīka ḫimēta 30
[who] used to place ghee on your lips!
31 libkīku sā[bû! …] 31
May the brewer […] mourn you,
32 [ša k]urunna ištakkan(u) ina pîka 32
[who] used to place ale in your mouth!
33 libkīku ḫ[arimtu …] 33
May the [harlot …] mourn you,
34 [ša…] … šamna uppašiš(u!) muḫḫaka ṭāba 34
[who …] anointed the crown of your head with sweet-scented oil!
35 libk[û elīka … ina bīt] emûti 35
May … [in the house] of the wedding ceremony mourn [you,]
36 ša aššata … […] 36
who … you a wife … [… !]
37 [… lib]ki elī[ka …] 37
[May…] mourn over [you!]
38 [kīma aḫḫī](ka) libkû‡ elīka (<…>) 38
May […] mourn you [as if they were] your [brothers!]
39 kīma aḫḫātīka lū ušš[urā] pērātūšun e[li ṣērīšun] 39
May their tresses be loosed down [their backs] as if they were your sisters!
40 [libkû] ana enkīdu ummaka abūka <…> 40
[May they weep] for Enkidu, your mother and father, [as if …]
41 ina ūmīšū-ma! abakkâk[a anāku?] 41
On that very day I [myself] shall mourn y[ou!]
42 [š]imâʾinni eṭlūtu šimânni yâši 42
Hear me, O young men, hear [me!]
43 šimâʾinni šībūt āli rapši uruk šimâʾinni yâši 43
Hear me, O elders [of the populous city, Uruk,] hear me!
44 anāku ana enk[īdu ibrī]ya abakki 44
I shall mourn Enkidu, my friend,
variant₁: anāku ana ibrīya enkīdu abakki
45 kīma lallarīti [un]abba ṣarpiš 45
like a professional mourning woman I shall lament bitterly.
46 ḫaṣṣin(u) aḫī[ya tukl]at idīya 46
The axe at my side, in which my arm trusted,
47 namṣār(u) šippīya [arīt]u ša pānīya 47

the sword of my belt, the shield in front of me;
47a mukīl … […] 47a
who held … […]
48 lubār isinnātīya nēbeḫ lalêya 48
my festive garment, the girdle of my delight:
49 [š]āru [l]emnu itbâm-ma ī[tekm]anni‡ yâši 49
a wicked wind has risen up against me and robbed me.
50 ibrī kūdannu ṭardu akkannu ša šadî nimru ša ṣēri 50
O my friend, a mule on the run, donkey of the uplands, panther of the wild,
51 enkīdu (ibrī) kūdannu ṭardu akkannu [ša šadî nimru ša ṣēri] 51
my (friend) Enkidu, a mule on the run, donkey [of the uplands, panther of the wild!]
52 ša ninnemdū-ma‡ nīlû šadâ 52
We (it was) who joined forces and climbed the uplands,
53 nišbatū-ma alâ [nināru] 53
seized the Bull of Heaven and [killed it,]
54 nušalpitu ḫumbāba ša ina qišti [erēni ašbu] 54
destroyed Humbaba, who [dwelt in the Cedar] Forest.
variant₁: nušalpitu ḫumbaba šar qišti erēni dannu […]
55 (eninna) mīnû šittu (ša) išbat(ū)ka kâši 55
Now what sleep is it that has seized [you?]
56 taʾʾadram-ma ul taše[mmânni yâši] 56
You have become unconscious and cannot [hear me!]
variant₁: attā tūrram-ma … […]
57 u šū ul inaššâ rēšīšu 57
But he, he would not lift his head;
58 ilput libbašū-ma ul inakkud mimmā-ma 58
he felt his heart, but it was not beating any more.
59 iktum-ma ibra kīma kallati pānuš 59
He covered (his) friend, (veiling) his face like a bride,
60 kīma arê isâ[r elīšu] 60
circling [around him] like an eagle.
variant₁: anāku … asūr elīšu
61 kīma nēšti ša šuddât mērā[nīša] 61
Like a lioness who is deprived of [her] cubs,
variant₁: kīma nēšti ša ina šuttati mērā[nīša]
62 ittanasḫur ana pānīšu u arkīšu 62
he kept turning about, this way and that.
63 ibaqqam (u) itabbak qun[nunta] pērta 63
He was pulling out his curly tresses and letting them fall in a heap,
64 inassaḫ (u) inaddi damqūti aša[kkiš …] 64
tearing off his finery and casting it away, [… like] something taboo.
65 mimmû [šēri in]a namāri 65
At the very first light [of dawn],
66 gilgāmeš ana māti rigma ultēṣi 66
Gilgameš sent forth a call to the land:
67 nappāḫu [zadimmu? qur]qurru kutimmu kabšarru 67
Forgemaster! [Lapidary!] Coppersmith! Goldsmith! Jeweller!
68 epuš ibr[ī …] 68
Make [of] my friend [a statue of his image!]’
69 […] ibnâ ṣalam ibrīšu 69
[such as no one before] he fashioned a statue of his friend:
70 ša ibrīya min[âtūka ša? …] 70
‘The limbs of my friend [shall be of … ;]
71 […] … īnī<ka> ša uqnî iratka ša ḫurāṣi zumurk[a …] 71
your eyebrows shall be of lapis lazuli, your chest of gold, your body [shall be of…]’
72 […] … ṣalam i[brīšu] 72
[…] … the statue [of his friend],
73 […] … ša uqnî irassu ša ḫurāṣi zu[muršu …] 73
[…] were of lapis lazuli, its chest of gold, [its] body [was of…]
74 […] … ṣalam i[brīšu] 74
[…] … the statue [of his friend],
75 […] … libbašu ub[la …] 75
[…] … he wanted to […]
76 [ibaqqa]m u itabbak qunnunt[a pērta] 76
[He was pulling out] his curly [tresses] and letting them fall in a heap,
77 inassaḫ (u) inaddi damqūti aša[kkiš (…)] 77
tearing off his finery and casting it away, [… like] something taboo.
78 […] … […] 78
[…] … […]

79 […] … […] 79
[…] … […]
(The text breaks off, resuming after a gap with the beginning of col. iii of MS NinNA2. This tablet held 42 lines in col. i, so iii 1 should be about l. 85.)
84 [ušnālkā-ma ina mayyāli rabî] 84
‘[I shall lay you out on a great bed,]
85 ina mayyā[l taknî ušnālkā-ma] 85
on a bed [of honour I shall lay you out.]
86 ušeššebka [šubta nēḫta šubat šumēli] 86
I shall set you [on a restful seat, the seat to (my) left,]
87 malkū ša qaqqar[i unaššaqū šēpīka] 87
the princes of the earth [will kiss your feet.]
88 ušabkâkku ni[šī ša uruk ušadmamakka] 88
I shall make weep for you the people [of Uruk, I shall make them sob for you:]
89 šamḫāti niš[ī umallâkka dulla] 89
the people so bonny [I shall fill full of grief for you,]
90 u anāku arkīk[a ušaššâ mal]â pagrī 90
And I, after you are gone [I shall have] myself [bear the matted locks of mourning,]
91 altabbiš-ma mašak l[abbim-ma arap]pud ṣēra 91
I shall don the skin of a [lion] and [go] roaming the wild.’
92 mimmû šēri ina namāri 92
At the very first light of dawn,
93 […] … 93
[Gilgameš arose and entered his treasury.]
94 riksīšu ipṭur šukutta īmur 94
He undid its sealings, he inspected the jewellery:
95 ṣurru? sānd[u …] … parūtu 95
obsidian, carnelian, […,] alabaster.
96 […] … eteppuš(u) 96
[…] … […] skilfully worked,
97 [… iš]takan ana ibrīšu 97
[… he] provided for his friend.
98 […] … ištakan ana ibrīšu 98
[…] he provided for his friend,
99 [… ša …] … mana ḫurāṣi ištakan ana ibrīšu 99
[… of x]+10 minas of gold he provided for his friend.
100 [… ša … m]ana ḫurāṣi ištakan ana ibrīšu 100
[… of x] minas of gold he provided for his friend.
101 [… ša … m]ana ḫurāṣi ištakan ana ibrīšu 101
[… of x] minas of gold he provided for his friend.
102 [… ša … m]ana ḫurāṣi ištakan ana ibrīšu 102
[… of x] minas of gold he provided for his friend.
103 […]
104 […] … birīšunu šalāšā mana ḫurāṣa ṣabtu 104
[…] between them, mounted in thirty minas of gold,
105 […] … ištakan ana ibrīšu 105
[… was] their […,] he provided for his friend.
106 […] … ištakan ana ibrīšu 106
[… was] their […,] he provided for his friend.
107 [… k]uburšunu 107
[… was] their thickness,
108 […] … ištakan ana ibrīšu 108
[… was] their […,] he provided for his friend.
109 […] rabītu 109
[…] large
110 […] … ištakan ana ibrīšu 110
[…] he provided for his friend.
111 […] … ša qablīšu 111
[…] of his waist
112 […] ištakan ana ibrīšu 112
[…] he provided for his friend.
113 […] ištakan ana ibrīšu 113
[…] he provided for his friend.
114 […] ištakan ana ibrīšu 114
[…] he provided for his friend.
115 [… ištakan ana ibrī]šu 115
[…he provided for his] friend.
(The text continues with col. iii of MS BabNB1a, of which approximately the first third is lost. A short overlap with MS NinNA1a is conceivable, but the first extant line of MS BabNB1a col. iii

cannot be lower than l. 114. If we presume a column of 50 lines in MS BabNB1a, the first preserved line will be l. 117:)

117 […] ištakan ana ibrīšu 117
[…] he provided [for his friend.]

118 […] ša šēpīšu ištakan ana ibrīšu 118
[…] of his feet, he provided [for his friend.]

119 […] b]ilat šinni pīri … 119
[… of x] talents of ivory …,

120 […] mana] ḫurāṣu naṣbassu ištakan ana ibrīšu 120
[… of which] the handle [was x minas] of gold, he provided for his friend.

121 […] … dannu ša idīšu ištakan ana ibrīšu 121
[…] mighty … of his arm, he provided for his friend.

122 […] išpassu ištēn bilat ḫurāṣu naṣbassu ištakan ana ibrīšu
122
[… of which] the quiver [was …], and the handle was a talent of gold, he provided for his friend.

123 […] ḫutpalû ša idīšu šinni pīri 123
[…] the mace in his hand was ivory,

124 […] … erbâ mana ḫurāṣu naṣbassu ištakan ana ibrīšu 124
[…] of which the handle was forty minas of gold, he provided for his friend.

125 […] … nikkas mūrakša 125
[…] its…, three cubits was its length,

126 […] … kuburšu ištakan ana ibrīšu 126
[…] … its thickness, he provided for his friend.

127 […] … ṣāriri ḫurāṣi 127
[…] … of fine gold,

128 […] … sāndi ḫaṭṭu parzilli 128
[…] … of carnelian, rod of iron,

129 […] … ṣibittu rīmu 129
[…] … holder, a wild bull,

130 […] … iktala? ana ibrīšu 130
[…] he ceased to sob for his friend,

131 [alpī kabrū]ti immerī marûti uṭṭabiḫ ittabak ana ibrīšu 131
[fat oxen] and fattened sheep he slaughtered, he piled them up for his friend.

132 […] … šamaš ša ibrīya 132
‘[These gifts I display,] O Šamaš, for my friend!’

133 […] … ana malkī qaqqari kali šīrī ublū 133
[…] … they carried all the meat to the princes of the earth.

134 […] … ištar šarrati rabīti 134
[...] ... to the great queen Ištar.

135 [tamḫ]īṣu kallirê iṣi el[li] 135
[A throw]stick of mahogany, the gleaming wood,

136 ana ištar šarrati rabīti [šamaš u]ktalli[m] 136
[for] Ištar, the great queen, [he displayed to Šamaš:]

137 [li]mḫur ištar šar[ratu ra]bīt[u] 137
‘[May] Ištar, the great queen […] receive this,

138 ana pān ibrīya l[ū ḫadât-ma idāšu] lillik 138
may [she] welcome my friend [and so walk at his side!]’

139 […] … […] t]ēdiqa 139
[…] a robe.

140 a[na bēl]et-il[ī šarrati? rabīti šamaš ukt]allim 140
for Bēlet-ilī, [the great queen he] displayed [to Šamaš:]

141 lim[ḫur bēlet-ilī šarratu?] rabītu 141
‘May [Bēlet-ilī], the great [queen] receive this,

142 ana pān [ibrīya lū ḫadât-ma] idāšu lillik 142
[may she] welcome [my friend and] so walk at his side!’

143 šabba uq[nî? …] 143
A flask of lapis [lazuli, …]

144 … […] 144
… […]

145 ana ereš[k]ig[al šarrat erṣeti šamaš uktallim] 145
for Ereškigal, [the queen of the Netherworld, he displayed to Šamaš:]

146 limḫur erešk[igal] š[arrat erṣeti rapašti] 146
‘May Ereškigal, the [queen of the populous Netherworld,] receive this,

147 ana pān i[brīya] l[ū ḫadât-ma idāšu lillik] 147
may [she] welcome [my friend and so walk at his side!]’

148 embūbu ša sāndi … […] 148
A flute of carnelian […]

149 ana dumuzi rēʾî narām [ištar šamaš uktallim] 149
for Dumuzi, the shepherd beloved of [Ištar, he displayed to Šamaš:]

150 limḫur dumuzi rēʾû narām [ištar] 150
‘May Dumuzi, the shepherd beloved of [Ištar (…),] receive this,
151 ana pān ibrīya lū ḫadī-ma i[dāšu lillik] 151
may he welcome my friend and [so walk at his side!]’
152 kussâ ša uqnî … […] 152
A throne of lapis lazuli … […]
153 ḫaṭṭi uqnî … […] 153
a staff of lapis lazuli […]
154 ana n[amtar sukkal erṣeti šamaš uktallim] 154
for Namtar, [the vizier of the Netherworld, he displayed to Šamaš:]
155 limḫur [namtar sukkal erṣeti rapašti] 155
‘May [Namtar, the vizier of the populous Netherworld,] receive this,
156 [ana pān ibrīya lū ḫadī-ma idāšu lillik] 156
‘[may he welcome my friend and so walk at his side!]’
157 […]
158 […]
159 an[a ḫušbiša abarakkat erṣeti šamaš uktallim] 159
for [Ḫušbišag, the stewardess of the Netherworld, he displayed to Šamaš:]
160 l[imḫur ḫušbiša abarakkat erṣeti rapašti] 160
‘May [Ḫušbišag, the stewardess of the populous Netherworld, receive this,]
161 [ana pān ibrīya lū ḫadât-ma idāšu lillik] 161
[may she welcome my friend and so walk at his side!]’
162 [uš]ēpiš-ma […] … […] 162
He had (them) make [……]
163 [m]ukammât kaspi šemerī erî … […] 163
a clasp of silver, bangles of copper […]
164 [a]na qāssa-ṭābat šābiṭ e[reškigal šamaš uktallim] 164
for Qāssa-ṭābat, the sweeper of [Ereškigal, he displayed to Šamaš:]
165 [lim]ḫur qāssa-ṭābat šābiṭ er[eškigal (…)] 165
‘[May] Qāssa-ṭābat, the sweeper [of Ereškigal (…),] receive this,
166 ana pān ibrīya lū ḫadī-ma i[dāšu lillik] 166
may he welcome my friend and [so walk at his side!]
167 ibrī ay … libbašu ay im(ma)raṣ 167
May my friend not …, nor become sick at heart!’
168 <…> parūtu ša libbašu uqnâ sānda raʾzu! 168
[…] of alabaster, the inside of which was inlaid with lapis lazuli and carnelian,
169 <…> ša qišti erēni 169
[depicting an image] of the Cedar Forest,
170 [… sānd]a‡ raʾzu! 170
[…] inlayed with carnelian
171 ana ninšuluḫḫatumma mušēširat bīti šamaš uktallim 171
for Ninšuluḫḫatumma, the cleaner of the house, he displayed to Šamaš:
172 [l]imḫur ninšuluḫḫatum-ma mušēširat bīti 172
‘May Ninšuluhhatumma, the cleaner of the house, receive this,
173 [an]a pān ibrīya lū ḫadât-ma idāšu lillik 173
may she welcome my friend and so walk at his side!
variant₁: an[a …] inaqqīšu
173a […] … ana pān ibrīya 173a
[May she …] … before my friend,
174 ana ibrīya … iqbī-ma libbašu ay imraṣ 174
to my friend may he…, may he not become sick at heart.
variant₁: [ibr]ī ay […] libbašu ay immaraṣ
175 patri katappê uqnî šikiršu‡ 175
A double-edged dagger with a haft of lapis lazuli,
176 mešēlti elleti puratti 176
… of the holy Euphrates,
177 ana bibbi ṭābiḫ erṣeti (rapašti) šamaš uktallim 177
for Bibbu, the butcher of the Netherworld, he displayed to Šamaš:
178 [limḫur bibbu ṭābi]ḫ erṣeti rapašti 178
‘[May Bibbu, the butcher] of the populous Netherworld, [receive this,]
179 [ana pān ibrīya lū ḫ]adī-ma idāšu lillik 179
[may he] welcome [my friend] and so walk at his side!’
180 [… ši]kkat parūti 180
[… a] flask of alabaster
181 [ana dumuzi-abzu m]ašḫaltappê erṣeti šamaš uktallim 181
[for Dumuzi-abzu, the] scapegoat of the Netherworld, he displayed to Šamaš:
182 [limḫur dumuzi-a]bzu mašḫaltappê erṣeti rapašti 182
‘[May Dumuzi]-abzu, the scapegoat of the populous Netherworld, [receive this,]
183 [ana pān ibrī]ya lū ḫadī-ma idāšu lillik 183

may he welcome my [friend] and so walk at his side!’
184 […] … ša muḫḫašu uqnû 184
[…] the top of which was lapis lazuli,
185 […] sānda raʾzu! 185
[…] inlaid with carnelian,
(This is the end of col. iv of MS NinNA1. The text resumes with col. v of MS BabNB1a, which will begin at about l. 199:)
199 […idā]šu lillik 199
‘[May he (or she) welcome my friend and so] walk at his [side!]’
200 […] erēni 200
[…] of cedar
201 [ana … rabî šamaš uk]tallim 201
[for …, the great …,] he displayed [to Šamaš:]
202 […] rabî 202
‘[May …,] the great […, receive this,]
203 [ana pān ibrīya ḫadī-ma idāšu] lillik 203
[may he welcome my friend and] so walk [at his side!]’
204 […] … 204
[…] …
205 […] 205
[…]
206 […] erēni 206
[…of] cedar
(There are unidentified traces at the end of MS BabNB1a v 15-17 (213*-15*), but they cannot be fitted into the larger fragment of text provided by MS NinNA2, which resumes towards the bottom of col. v, about 20 to 25 lines after the end of col. iv in MS NinNA1:)
207 […] … […]
208 […] … ša … […] 208
‘[…] … which we … […]
209 […]-šunu-ma … šumšunu […] 209
[…] their […], their names […]
210 […ḏ]ayyān anunnak[kī …] 210
[…] judge of the Anunnaki […]’
211 g[ilgām]eš annīta ina še[mêšu] 211
When Gilgameš heard this,
212 sikra ša nāri ibtani [ina libbīšu] 212
he conceived [in his heart] the damming of the river.
213 mimmû šēri ina namāri 213
At the very first light of dawn,
214 gilgāmeš ipteti b[ābšu] 214
Gilgameš opened [his gate.]
215 ušēṣâm-ma paššūr elammaki rab[â] 215
He brought out a great table of elammaku-wood,
216 mallat sāndi umalli dišpa 216
he filled with syrup a dish of carnelian.
217 mallat uqnî ḫimēta umtalli 217
He filled with ghee a dish of lapis lazuli,
218 […] … uzaʾʾinam-ma šamaš uktallim 218
he decorated […] and displayed it to Šamaš.
219 […ukta]lim? 219
[… he displayed to the] sun.
(Here ends col. v of MS NinNA2. In col. vi of the same tablet only the colophon is preserved, but it can be estimated that no more than 32 lines were available on this tablet for the remaining text of Tablet VIII and the catch-line of Tablet IX. Parts of two of these lines are preserved at the beginning of col. vi of MS NinNA1:)
229 nipḫu […] 229
a gold disk […]
230 šū […] 230
He himself […]
(The end of the text is lost on this MS also, but since the fragment NinNA1c preserves the end of a long Asb colophon, it is possible to estimate the number of lines missing from this point to the end of Tablet VIII at around 20 to 25.)

IX

1 gilgāmeš ana enkīdu ibrīšu 1
For his friend Enkidu Gilgameš
2 ṣarpiš ibakkī-ma irappud ṣēra 2
was weeping bitterly as he roamed the wild:

3 anāku amât-ma ul kī enkīdū-mâ 3
‘I shall die, and shall I not then be like Enkidu?
4 nissatu īterub ina karšīya 4
Sorrow has entered my heart.
5 mūta aplaḫ-ma arappud ṣēra 5
I became afraid of death, so go roaming the wild,
6 ana lēt ūta-napišti mār ubār-tutu 6
to Ūta-napišti, son of Ubār-Tutu,
7 urḫa ṣabtākū-ma ḫanṭiš allak 7
I am on the road and travelling swiftly.
8 ana nērebēti ša šadî aktašad mūšīta 8
I arrived one night at the mountain passes,
9 nēšī āmur aptalaḫ anāku 9
I saw some lions and grew afraid.
10 ašši rēšīya ana sîn akarrab 10
I lifted my head, praying to Sîn,
11 ana [… na]mirti? ilī illakū supûʾa 11
to [… , the] light of the gods, my supplications went:
12 s[în? u …] … šullimāʾinni yâti 12
“O [Sîn and …,] keep me safe!'"
13 [gilgāmeš i]tbe iggeltū-ma šuttu 13
[Gilgameš] arose, he awoke with a start: it was a dream!
14 […] mut[tiš] sîn iḫtedu balāṭu 14
[… in the] presence of the moon he grew happy to be alive.
15 išši ḫa[ṣṣinna] ana idīšu 15
He took up his axe in his hand,
16 išlup [namṣār] šibbīšu 16
he drew forth [the dirk from] his belt.
17 kīma šilt[āḫi ana b]irīšunu imqut 17
Like an arrow he fell among them,
18 imḫaṣ la[bbī i]dûk uparrir 18
he smote the [lions, he] killed (them), he scattered (them).
19 u … […] … allalim-ma 19
Then … […] …,
20 iddi […] 20
he cast off […]
21 uṣṣir … […] 21
He drew [two …,]
22 šum maḫr[î …] 22
the name of the first [was …,]
23 šum šan[î …] 23
the name of the second [was …]
24 išši r[ēšīšu ana sîn ikarrab] 24
He lifted [his head, praying to Sîn,]
25 ana … [… namirti? ilī illakū supûšu] 25
to […, the light of the gods, his supplications went:]
26 sî[n? …] 26
‘O [Sîn and …,]
27 l[ū …] 27
let […]
28 k[ī …] 28
How […?]'
29 sî[n? …] 29
[Sîn …]
(The end of col. i is lost, leaving a gap in the text of 7 lines at the most.)
37 ša šadî šemūšu māš[u(m)-ma] 37
The name of the mountain was Māšu.
38 ana šad māši ina kaš[ādīšu] 38
To Māšu’s twin mountains he came,
39 ša ūmišam-ma inaṣṣarū aṣ[ê šamši] 39
which daily guard the rising [of the sun,] –
40 elūšunu šupuk šamê e[ndū] 40
their tops [abut] the fabric of the heavens,
41 šapliš arallê irassunu kašdat 41
their bases reach down to Hades –
42 girtablilū inaṣṣarū bābšu 42
there were scorpion-men guarding its gate,
43 ša rašbat pulḫassunū-ma imrassunu mūtu 43
whose terror was dread and glance was death,

44 galtu melammūšunu saḫip ḫursāni 44
whose radiance was terrifying, enveloping the uplands –
45 ana aṣê šamši u ereb šamši inaṣṣarū šamšī-ma 45
at both sunrise and sunset they guard the sun –
46 īmuršunūtī-ma gilgāmeš puluḫta u rašubbata īterim pānīšu 46
Gilgameš saw them and covered his face with fear and dread;
47 iṣbat ṭēnšū-ma iqrub maḫaršun 47
he collected his wits and drew near their presence.
48 girtablīlu ana sinništīšu išassi 48
The scorpion-man called to his female:
49 ša illikannâši šīr ilī zumuršu 49
‘He who has come to us, flesh of the gods is his body.’
50 girtablīlu sinništašu ippalšu 50
The scorpion-man’s female answered him:
51 šittāšu ilum-ma šullultašu amēlūtu 51
‘Two-thirds of him are god but a third of him is human.’
52 gi[rtabl]īlu zikaru išassi 52
The male scorpion-man called out,
53 [ana gilgāmeš šarri š]īr ilī amāta izakkar 53
saying a word [to King Gilgameš,] flesh of the gods:
54 [attā kīkī tallika?] rūqata urḫa 54
'[How did you come here,] a far road?
55 [… tasniq]a adi maḫrīya 55
[how did you get] here, into my presence?
56 [kīkī nārāti tētebbir]a ša ebēršina pašqu 56
[How did you ford the many rivers], whose crossing is perilous?
57 […] … lulmad 57
[…] let me learn of your […]
58 [… ašar pānūk]a šaknū 58
[… where] your [face] is set,
59 [… lu]lmad 59
[… let me] learn [of your journey.]'
(The rest of MS NinNA1 col. ii and the first two lines of col. iii are lost, leaving a gap of 14 lines at most.)
74 […] … […] 74
[…] … […]
75 ḫ[arrān] ūta-napišti abīya … […] 75
‘[I am seeking] the [road] of my forefather, Ūta-napišti.
76 ša izzizū-ma ina puḫur i[lī balāṭa išʾû] 76
He who stood in the assembly of the gods, and [found life,]
77 mūta u balāṭa […] 77
of death and life [he will tell me the secret.]'
78 girtablīlu pāšu īpu[š-ma iqabbi] 78
The scorpion-man opened his mouth [to speak,]
79 izakkaru an[a gilgāmeš] 79
saying to [Gilgameš:]
80 ul ibši gilgāmeš kī[ma kâti] 80
‘There was not [ever], O Gilgameš, […] like [you,]
81 ša šadî mamma … […] 81
never did anyone [travel the path] of the mountain.
82 ana šinšeret bērī libbaš[u …] 82
For twelve double-hours its interior [extends,]
83 šapât ekletum-ma ul i[bbašši nūru] 83
the darkness is dense and [light is] there none.
84 ana aṣê šamši … […] 84
For the rising of the sun […,]
85 ana ereb š[amši …] 85
for the setting of the [sun …,]
86 ana ereb š[amši …] 86
For the setting of the […,]
87 ušēṣû […] 87
they sent forth […]
88 … […] 88
… […]
89 attā k[īkī …] 89
and you, how [will you …?]
90 terr[ub …] 90
Will you go [in …?]'
91 … […] 91

… […]
92 … […] 92
… […]
93 … […] 93
… […]
(The lower part of MS NinNA1 col. iii and the upper part of col. iv are missing, leaving a gap of not more than 32 lines.)
125 ina nis[sati …] 125
‘Through sorrow […;]
126 ina šarbi u ṣ[ēti qummû pānūa] 126
by frost and sunshine [my face is burnt.]
127 ina tānēḫi […] 127
Through exhaustion […:]
128 eninna … […] 128
now you [must …]’
129 girtablīl[u pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi?] 129
The scorpion-man [opened his mouth to speak,]
130 ana gilgāmeš ša[rri šīr ilī amāta izakkar] 130
[saying a word] to King Gilgameš, [flesh of the gods:]
131 alik gilgā[meš …] 131
‘Go, Gilgameš! […,]
132 šadû māšu … […] 132
May the mountains of Māšu [allow you to pass!]
133 šadû ḫur[sānū …] 133
‘[May] the mountains and hills [watch over your going!]
134 šalmiš … […] 134
Let [them help you] in safety [to continue your journey]
135 abul šadî … […] 135
[May] the gate of the mountain [open before you!]'
136 gilg[āmeš annīta ina šemêšu] 136
[When] Gilgameš [heard this,]
137 ana zikri š[a girtablīli …] 137
to what [the scorpion-man] had told him […]
138 ḫarrān šamaš i[ṣbat …] 138
he [took] the path of the sun […]
139 ištēn bēr … […] 139
One double-hour … […,]
140 šapât eklet[um-ma ul ibašši nūru] 140
the darkness was dense, [and light was there none:]
141 ul inadd[inšum-ma ana palāsi arkassu] 141
it did not [allow him to see what was behind him.]
142 šitta bē[rī …] 142
Two double-hours […,]
143 šapât ekl[etum-ma ul ibaššī nūru] 143
the darkness was dense, [and light was there none:]
144 ul inad[dinšum-ma ana palāsi arkassu] 144
it did not [allow him to see what was behind him.]
145 šalāšat bērī […] 145
Three double-hours […,]
(Lines 146-147 missing in both manuscripts.)
146 [šapât ekletum-ma ul ibašši nūru] 146
[the darkness was dense, and light was there none:]
147 [ul inaddinšum-ma ana palāsi arkassu] 147
[it did not allow him to see what was behind him.]
148 erbet bē[rī …] 148
Four double-[hours …,]
149 šapât [ekletum-ma ul ibašši nūru] 149
[the darkness] was dense, [and light was there none:]
150 ul ina[ddinšum-ma ana palāsi arkassu] 150
it did not [allow him to see what was behind him.]
151 ḫamšat bērī […] 151
Five double-hours […,]
152 šapât ekl[etum-ma ul ibašši nūru] 152
the darkness was dense, [and light was there none:]
153 u[l] inaddi[nšum-ma ana palāsi arkassu] 153
it did not allow [him to see what was behind him.]
154 šeššet [bē]rī … […] 154
When [he reached] six double-hours,
155 šapât ekletum-[ma ul ibašši nūru] 155

the darkness was dense, [and light was there none:]
156 ul inaddi[nšum-ma ana palāsi arkassu] 156
it did not allow [him to see what was behind him.]
157 sebet bērī ina kaš[ādi] … […] 157
On reaching seven double-hours […,]
158 šapât ekle[tum-m]a ul i[bašši nūru] 158
the darkness was dense, and [light was there] none:
159 ul inad[d]inšum-ma [an]a palāsi arka[ssu] 159
it did not allow him [to] see what was behind [him.]
160 samānat bērī kīma […] … išarra[ḫ] 160
At eight double-hours he was hurrying like […,]
161 šapât ekl[etum-ma ul ib]ašši nūru 161
the darkness was dense, and light was [there none:]
162 ul inad[dinšum-ma ana p]alāsi arkassu 162
it did not [allow him to] see what was behind him.
163 tišīt bē[rī …] iltānu 163
Nine double-[hours …] the north wind,
164 […] … pānīšu 164
[…] … his face;
165 [šapât ekletum-ma ul ib]ašši nūru 165
[the darkness was dense, and] light was [there none:]
166 [ul inaddinšū-ma ana p]alāsi arkassu 166
[it did not allow him to] see what was behind him.
167 [ešret bērī … ina kašā]dīšu 167
[When he] reached [ten double-hours,]
168 […] qitrub 168
[…] was very near.
169 [ištēššeret bērī … ḫarrān] ša bēri 169
[on reaching eleven double-hours a journey remained] of one double-hour,
170 [šinšeret bērī gilgāmeš itt]aṣi lām šamši 170
[at twelve double-hours Gilgameš] emerged ahead of the Sun.
171 … […n]amirtu šaknat 171
[…] there was brilliance:
172 … […] … iṣṣī ša ilī ina amāri īšir 172
he went straight, as soon as he saw them, to… the trees of the gods.
173 sāmtu našât inibša 173
A carnelian (tree) was in fruit,
174 isḫunnata ullulat ana dagāli ḫīpat 174
hung with bunches of grapes, lovely to behold.
175 uqnû naši ḫasḫalta 175
A lapis lazuli (tree) bore foliage,
176 inba našī-ma ana amāri ṣayyaḫ 176
in full fruit and gorgeous to gaze on.
(At the top of MS NinNA1 col. vi seven lines are missing, at the most.)
184 […] šu[rmēnu …] 184
[…] cypress […]
185 […] erēnu […] 185
[…] cedar […,]
186 zinûšu pappar[dillû …] abni 186
its leaf-stems were of pappardilû [stone and …] …
187 laruš tâmti […] sāsu 187
Sea coral […] sāsu-stone,
188 kīma balti u ašā[gi ibšû?] AN.ZA.GUL.ME 188
instead of thorns and briar [there grew] crystal vials.
189 ḫarūba ilp[ut? ab]ašmu 189
He touched a carob, [(it was)] abašmu stone,
190 šubû š[adānu …] … 190
šubû stone and haematite […] …
191 k[īma …] … u … […] … ṣēr[a] 191
Like […] and … […] … the plain,
192 kīma … […a]gusīgu 192
like […] turquoise.
193 ša … […išqi]llat tâmti 193
Of […] sea-shell,
194 īšu … […] … 194
it had […] …
195 gilgāmeš … […] … itallukīšu 195
As Gilgameš walked about [in wonder,]
196 išš[i] r[ēšīša in]aṭṭa[lš]u šuātu 196

she lifted up [her head to] watch him.

X

1 šiduri sābītu ša ina sapan tâmti ašbat 1
Šiduri was an ale-wife who lived by the sea-shore.
2 ašbat […] … […] 2
there she lived, [in an inn by the sea-shore.]
3 ibšûši kannū ibšûši … […] 3
Potstands she had, and [vats of gold,]
4 kutummi kuttumat-ma k[ulūli kullulat?] 4
she was swathed in hoods and [veiled with] veils.
5 gilgāmeš uttaggiša[m]-ma … […] 5
Gilgameš came wandering, and […:]
6 maška labiš pul[u]ḫt[a …] 6
he was clothed in a pelt, and fearful [to look on.]
7 īši šīr il[ī] ina z[umrīšu?] 7
He had the flesh of the gods in [his body,]
8 ibašši nissatu ina [karš]ī[šu] 8
but there was sorrow in [his heart.]
9 ana ālik urḫi rūqati pānūšu mašlū 9
His face was like one who had travelled a distant road;
10 sābītu ana rūqi inaṭṭalšum-ma 10
the ale-wife was watching him in the distance.
11 uštamma ana libbīša amāta iqabb[i] 11
Talking to herself she spoke a word,
12 itti ramānīšā-ma šī imtall[ik] 12
taking counsel in her own mind:
13 mindē-ma annû munaʾʾer rīm[ī] 13
‘For sure this man is a slayer of wild bulls;
14 ayyānum-ma īšira ana‡ bābīya 14
whence did he make straight for my gate?’
15 īmuršū-ma sābītu ītedil bābš[a] 15
The ale-wife saw him and barred her gate,
16 bābša ītedil-ma‡ ītel[â] ana ū[ri] 16
barred her gate and went up on the roof.
17 u šū īši uzna gilgāmeš ana … […] 17
But he, Gilgameš, had (good) hearing … […,]
18 ušaqqi zuqassū-ma ištak[anši pānīšu?] 18
he lifted his chin and turned [towards her.]
19 gilgāmeš ana ŠâŠī-ma iza[kkara ana sāb]īti 19
Gilgameš [spoke] to her, [to the ale]-wife:
20 sābītu minâ tāmurī[nnī-ma tēdilī b]ābki! 20
‘Ale-wife, why when you saw [me did you bar] your [gate?]
21 bābki tēdil[ī-ma tētelî ana ū]ri 21
You barred your gate [and went up on the] roof.
22 amaḫḫaṣ d[alta sikkūra ašeb]ber 22
I shall strike the door, I shall [break the bolt.]
23 … […] … 23
[…] my […,]
variant₁: […] …
24 [… i]na ṣēri 24
[…] in the wild.’
25 [sābītu ana ŠâŠū-[ma izakkara ana gilg]āmeš 25
[The ale-wife spoke to] him, [to] Gilgameš:
26 […] … [… ēd]il bābī 26
‘[…] … […] I barred my gate,
27 [… ēteli an]a ūri 27
[…] … [… I went up on] the roof.
28 […] … [… a]la[ktaka?] lulmad 28
[…] … […] let me learn of [your journey!]'
29 [gilgāmeš an]a ŠâŠī-[ma izakkar ana sā]bīti 29
[Gilgameš spoke to] her, [to the ale]-wife:
30 [enkīdu ibrī …] … 30
‘[My friend Enkidu and I, …] …
31 [ša ninnemdū-ma nīlû šad]â 31
[We it was who joined forces and climbed the mountain] country,
32 [alâ niṣbatū-ma (alâ) ināru] 32
[seized the Bull of Heaven and killed the Bull of Heaven,]

33 [nušalpitu ḫumbaba ša ina qi]šti erē[ni ašbu] 33
[destroyed Humbaba, who lived in the] Cedar [Forest,]
34 [ina nērebēti ša šadî nidū]ku nēšī 34
[killed] lions [in the mountain passes.]’
35 [sābītu ana šâši izak]kar ana gilgāmeš 35
[The ale-wife] spoke [to him,] to Gilgameš:
36 [šumma attā u enkīd]u ša maṣṣara tanārā 36
‘[If you and Enkidu were] the ones who killed the Guardian,
37 [tušalpitā ḫumb]āba ša ina qišti erēni ašba 37
[who destroyed] Humbaba, who lived in the Cedar Forest,
38 [ina nērebēti š]a šadî tadūkā nēšī 38
[who] killed lions [in the] mountain [passes,]
39 [alâ taṣbatā-ma al]â tanārā ša ultu šamê urdu 39
[who seized the Bull of Heaven and] killed [the Bull] of Heaven, that came down from the heavens–
40 [ammēni aklā lēt]āti quddudū pānūka 40
[why are your] cheeks [hollow,] your face sunken,
41 [lummun libbaka qat]û zīmūka 41
[your mood wretched,] your features wasted?
42 [ibašši nissatu] ina karšīka! 42
[(Why) is there sorrow] in your heart,
43 [ana ālik urḫi rūqati] pānūka mašlū 43
your face like one [who has travelled a distant road?]
44 [ina šarbi u ṣēti] qummû pānūka 44
[(Why is it)] your face is burnt [by frost and sunshine,]
45 [u pān labbi šaknātā-m]a tarappud ṣēr[a] 45
[and] you roam the wild [got up like a lion?]'
46 [gilgāmeš ana šâšī-ma izakkar] ana sā[bīti] 46
[Gilgameš spoke to her,] to the ale-wife:
47 [ammīni lā aklā lētāya lā quddudū pānūʾa] 47
‘[Why should my cheeks not be hollow, my face not sunken,]
48 [lā lummun libbī lā qatû zīmūʾa] 48
[my mood not wretched, my features not wasted?]
49 [lā ibbašši nissatu ina karšīya] 49
[Should there not be sorrow in my heart,]
50 [ana ālik urḫi rūqati pānūʾa lā mašlū] 50
[and my face not be like one who has travelled a distant road?]
51 [ina šarbi u ṣēti lā qummû pānūʾa] 51
[Should not my face be burnt by frost and sunshine,]
52 [u pān labbi lā šaknākū-ma lā arappud ṣēra] 52
[and should I not roam the wild got up like a lion?]
(The bottom of the column and the beginning of the next are lost, leaving a gap of about 14 lines of tablet before MS NinNA1 resumes in col. ii. The text at this point is easily reconstructed from the parallel passages in cols. iii and v, and we can therefore restore the gap according to ll. 120-37 and 220-37. However, part of this material has already been anticipated in ll. 31–34, and is omitted on the grounds that it is unlikely to have been repeated in the same episode. This provides us with exactly the 14 lines required to fill the gap, but since MS NinNA1 is prone to double lines up, the number of missing lines of text could well more than the 14 missing lines of tablet, and the line-numbering from here is provisional.)
53 [ibrī kūdanu ṭardu akkannu ša šadî nimru ša ṣēri] 53
[My friend, a mule on the run, donkey of the uplands, panther of the wild,]
54 [enkīdu ibrī kūdanu ṭardu akkannu ša šadî nimru ša ṣēri] 54
[My friend Enkidu, a mule on the run, donkey of the uplands, panther of the wild,]
55 [ibrī ša arammūšu danniš ittīya ittallaku kalu marṣāti] 55
[my friend, whom I love so deeply, who with me went through every danger,]
56 [enkīdu ibrī ša arammūšu danniš ittīya ittallaku kalu marṣāti] 56
[my friend Enkidu, whom I love so deeply, who with me went through every danger:]
57 [ikšudaššu šīmat amēlūti?] 57
[the doom of mankind overtook him,]
58 [šeššet urrī u sebe mūšāti elīšu abki] 58
[for six days and seven nights I wept over him.]
59 [ul addinšu ana qebēri] 59
[I did not give him up for burial,]
60 [adi tûltu imquta ina appīšu] 60
[until a maggot fell from his nostril.]
61 [ādur] … […] 61
[Then I was afraid …] … [… ,]
62 [mūta aplaḫ-ma arappud ṣēra] 62
[I grew fearful of death and so roam the wild.]
63 amāt ibrīy[a kabt]at? elīya 63

The case of my friend was too [much] for me to bear,
64 [urḫa rūqata arappud ṣē]ra 64
[so on a distant road I roam the] wild.
65 amāt enkī[du ibrīya kabtat? elī]ya 65
The case of [my friend] Enkidu [was too much for] me to bear,
66 [ḫarrāna rūqata] arappud [ṣ]ēra 66
[so on a distant path] I roam the wild.
67 [kīkī lusku]t kīkī luqū[l anāku] 67
(For) I, [how could I stay silent?] How could I stay quiet?
68 [ibrī ša aramm]u ī[tem]i ṭiṭṭiš 68
[My friend, whom I love, has turned] to clay,
69 enkīdu ibrī ša arammu īt[emi ṭi]ṭṭiš 69
my friend Enkidu, whom I love, has [turned to] clay.
70 [anāku ul kī š]âšū-mâ anillam-ma 70
[Shall not I be like] him and also lie down,
71 [ul ate]bbâ (ana) dūr dār(i) 71
[never to rise] again, through all eternity?'
72 [gilgā]meš ana šâšī-ma izakkara ana sābī[ti] 72
Gilgameš spoke to her, to the ale-wife:
73 [enin]nā-ma sābīt mīnû ḫarrānu ša ūta-napišti 73
'Now, ale-wife, what is the road to Ūta-napišti?
74 [mīn]û ittaša yâši idnī 74
What is its landmark? Give it to me!
75 idnīm-ma ittaša yâši 75
Do give me its landmark!
76 šumma naṭū-ma tâmta lūbir 76
If it may be done, I will cross the ocean!
77 šumma lā naṭū-ma ṣēra lurpud 77
if it may not be done, I will roam the wild!'
78 sābītu ana‡ šâšū-ma‡ izakkara ana gilgāmeš 78
The ale-wife spoke to him, to Gilgameš:
79 ul ibši gilgāmeš nēberu matīma 79
'There never was, O Gilgameš, a way across,
80 u mamma ša ultu (ūm) ṣâti lā ibbiru tâmta 80
and since the days of old none who can cross the ocean.
81 ēbir tâmti šamaš qurādu(m-ma) 81
The one who crosses the ocean is the hero Šamaš:
82 balu šamaš ēbir tâmti mannu 82
apart from Šamaš, who is there can cross the ocean?
83 pašqat nēbertu šupšuqat uruḫša 83
The crossing is perilous, its way full of hazard,
84 (u) birâ mê mūti ša pānāssa parkū 84
and in between are the Waters of Death, that lie across the passage forward.
85 aḫum-ma‡ gilgāmeš tētebir tâmta 85
So besides, Gilgameš, (once) you have crossed the ocean,
86 ana mê mūti kī taktaldu teppuš mīna 86
when you reach the Waters of Death, what will you do?
87 gilgāmeš ibašši ur-šanabi malāḫu ša ūta-napišti 87
O Gilgameš, there is Ur-šanabi, the boatman of Ūta-napišti,
88 u šūt abnī ittīšu ina (libbi) qišti iqattap urna 88
and the Stone Ones are with him as he strips a pine in the midst of the forest.
89 alik-ma līmur(ū) pānīka 89
Go then, and let him see your face!
90 šumma naṭū-ma ebir ittīšu 90
if it may be done, cross with him,
91 šumma lā naṭū-ma iḫis arkīka 91
if it may not be done, turn around (and go) back!'
92 gilgāmeš annīta ina šemêšu 92
When Gilgameš heard this,
93 išši ḫaṣṣinna ana idīšu 93
he took up (his) axe in his hand,
94 išlup namṣāra [(ina) šibbīš]u 94
he drew forth the dirk [from] his [belt,]
95 iḫlul-ma ittardaššunūti 95
he crept up and rushed down on them.
96 kīma šiltāḫi ana bīrīšunu imqut 96
Like an arrow he fell among them,
97 ina libbi qišti išeppu [rig]mu 97
(his) shout booming through the midst of the forest.

98 īmur-ma ur-šanabi namrīrašu it[taḫ]lip 98
Ur-šanabi saw him and clad himself in his aura,
99 išši ḫaṣṣinnam-ma [ir]tūbaššu 99
he took up an axe, all atremble before him.
100 u šū imḫaṣ qaqqassu … gilgāmeš 100
But he, Gilgameš, struck his head [and grabbed his hair],
101 iṣbat kappašū-ma […] … irtīšu 101
he pinned his arm along his chest.
102 u šūt abnī ipteḫḫû eleppa 102
And the Stone Ones had sealed the boat,
103 ša lā īduru mê mūti 103
who did not fear the Waters of Death.
104 [… tâ]mta rapašta 104
Gilgameš strode into the Ocean, the wide sea,
105 ina mê … […] ikla 105
in the water he halted the boat and the Stone Ones,
106 uḫtappû šūt abni ittabak ana nāri 106
He smashed the Stone Ones, he tipped them into the river,
107 … […] … eleppa 107
He tied up the boat with a rope,
108 u [… ittaš]ab ina kibri 108
and then [… he sat] down on the bank.
109 [gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkara] ana ur-šanabi malāḫi 109
[Gilgameš spoke to him,] to the boatman Ur-šanabi:
110 [… t]aššâ tašubba 110
‘So, Ur-šanabi, you took up an axe, all atremble before me!
111 […] … kâša 111
The fight and the battle you sought I will not wage against you.’
112 [u]r-šanabi ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana [gilgāmeš] 112
[Ur]-šanabi spoke to him, to Gilgameš:
113 [a]mmēni aklā lētāka qudd[udū pānūka] 113
‘Why are your cheeks hollow, [your face] sunken,
114 [lu]mmun libbaka q[atû zīmūka] 114
your mood wretched, [your features wasted?]
115 ibašši nissatu [i]n[a karšīka] 115
(Why) is there sorrow [in your heart,]
116 [ana] ālik urḫi rūqati pā[nūka mašlū] 116
and [your face like one] who has travelled a distant road?
117 [in]a šarbi u ṣēti qum[mû pānūka] 117
[(Why is it) your face is] burnt [by] frost and sunshine,
118 [u pā]n labbi šaknātā-ma ta[rappud ṣēra] 118
[and] you [roam the wild got up like a lion?]’
119 [gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma] izakkara an[a ur-šanabi mālaḫi] 119
[Gilgameš] spoke [to him,] to [the boatman Ur-šanabi:]
120 [ammīni lā aklā lē]tāya lā [quddudū pānūʾa] 120
‘[Why should] my cheeks [not be hollow, my face] not [sunken,]
121 [lā lummun lib]bī lā qat[û zīmūʾa] 121
my [mood not wretched, my features] not wasted?
122 [lā ibašši nis]satu ina [karšīya] 122
[Should there not be] sorrow in [my heart,]
123 [ana ālik urḫi rūqat]i pān[ūʾa lā mašlū] 123
[and my] face [not be like one who has travelled a distant road?]
124 [ina šarbi u ṣē]ti lā qu[mmû pānūʾa] 124
[Should] not [my face be] burnt [by frost and sunshine,]
125 [u pān labbi lā šaknā]kū-ma lā [arappud ṣēra] 125
[and] should I not [roam the wild got up like a lion?]
126 [ibrī kūdanu ṭardu akkannu ša šadî nimru ša ṣēri] 126
[My friend, a mule on the run, donkey of the uplands, panther of the wild,]
127 [enkīdu ibrī kūdanu ṭardu akkannu ša šadî nimru ša ṣēri]
127
[Enkidu, my friend, a mule on the run, donkey of the uplands, panther of the wild,]
128 [ša ninnemdū-ma nīlû šadâ] 128
[we it was who joined forces and climbed the mountain country,]
129 [alâ niṣbatū-ma alâ ināru] 129
[seized the Bull of Heaven and killed the Bull of Heaven,]
130 [nušalpitu Ḫumbaba ša ina qišti erēni ašbu] 130
[destroyed Humbaba, who lived in the Cedar Forest,]
131 in[a nērebēti ša šadî nidūku nēšī] 131
[killed lions] in [the mountain passes.]

132 ibr[ī ša arammūšu danniš ittīya ittallaku kalu marṣāti] 132
My friend [whom I love so deeply, who with me went through every danger,]
133 enk[īdu ibrī ša arammūšu danniš ittīya ittallaku kalû marṣāti]
133
[My friend] Enkidu, [whom I love so deeply, who with me went through every danger:]
134 ikšud[aššu šīmat amēlūti] 134
[the doom of mankind] overtook [him,]
135 šeššet urr[ī u sebe mūšāti elīšu abki] 135
for six days [and seven nights I wept over him.]
136 [ul addinšu ana qēbēri] 136
[I did not give him up for burial,]
137 adi [tûltu imquta ina appīšu] 137
until [a maggot fell from his nostril.]
138 ādu[r …] 138
Then I was afrai[d …,]
139 [mūta aplaḫ-ma arappud ṣēra] 139
[I grew fearful of death and so roam the wild.]
140 am[āt ibrīy]a [kabtat? elīya] 140
The case of my [friend was too much for me to bear,]
141 u[rḫa rū]qata arap[pud ṣēra] 141
so on a distant road I [roam the wild.]
142 [amāt enkīdu ibrīya kabtat elīya] 142
[The case of my friend Enkidu was too much for me to bear,]
143 [ḫarr]āna rūq[ata arappud ṣēra] 143
so on a distant path [I roam the wild.]
144 [k]īkī lu[skut kīkī luqūl anāku] 144
[(For) I,] how could I stay [silent? How could I stay quiet?]
145 [i]brī ša arammu īte[mi ṭiṭṭiš] 145
My friend, whom I love, has [turned to clay,]
146 [enkīdu ibrī ša arammu ītemi ṭiṭṭiš] 146
[my friend Enkidu, whom I love, has turned to clay.]
147 anāku ul kī šâšū-mâ anill[am-ma] 147
Shall not I be like him and also lie [down,]
148 [ul atebbâ dūr dār] 148
[never to rise again, through all eternity?]'
149 gilgāmeš ana šâšu izakkar ana u[r-šanabi malāḫi] 149
Gilgameš said to him, to Ur-[sanabi, the boatman:]
150 eninna ur-šanabi mīnû [ḫarrānu ša ūta-napišti] 150
'Now, Ur-šanabi, what [is the road to Ūta-napišti?]
151 mīnû ittaša yâši idna 151
What is its landmark? Give it to me!
152 idnam-m[a ittaša yâši] 152
Do give me [its landmark!]
153 šumma naṭû-(ma) ṭâmta lūbir 153
If it may be done, I will cross the ocean!
154 šumma lā naṭû-m[a ṣēra lurpud] 154
if it may not be done, [I will roam the wild!]'
155 ur-šanabi ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana [gilgāmeš] 155
Ur-šanabi spoke to him, to [Gilgameš:]
156 qātāka gilgāmeš iklâ [ebērka?] 156
'Your own hands, Gilgameš, have prevented [your crossing.]
157 tuḫtappi šūt abnī tattaba[k ana nāri] 157
You have smashed the Stone Ones, you have tipped [them in the river,]
158 šūt abnī ḫuppû-ma urnu ul [qatip?] 158
the Stone Ones are smashed and the cedar is not [stripped.]
159 iši gilgāmeš ḫaṣṣinna ana i[dīka] 159
Take up, Gilgameš, the axe in [your] hand,
160 erid ana qištim-ma pārisī ša ḫamšat nindanā [ḫamšat šūši iksa?]
160
go down to the forest and [cut me three hundred] punting-poles, each five rods long.
161 kupur-ma šukun tulâ 161
Trim and furnish (each) with a boss,
162 billa[ššunūti …] 162
bring [them to …]'
163 gilgāmeš annīta i[na šemêšu] 163
When Gilgameš [heard] this,
164 išši ḫaṣṣinna ana idīšu 164
he took up the axe in his hand,
165 išl[up namṣāra ina šibbīšu] 165

he drew [forth the dirk from his belt,]
166 urid ana qištim-ma pārisī ša ŋamšat nindan[ā ŋamšat šūši ikkis?]
166
he went down to the forest and [cut him three hundred] punting-poles, each five rods long.
167 ikpur ištakan tulâ 167
He trimmed and furnished (each) with a boss,
168 ubil-m[a …] 168
he took [them to …]
169 gilgāmeš u ur-šanabi irkabū [eleppa] 169
Gilgameš and Ur-šanabi boarded [the boat,]
170 magilla iddû-ma šunu [irtakbū] 170
they launched the craft and [crewed it] themselves.
171 mālak arḫi u šapatti ina šalši ūme ittal[kū …] 171
By the third day they had travelled a month and a half’s journey,
172 ikšudam-ma ur-šanabi mê m[ūti] 172
then Ur-šanabi arrived at the Waters of [Death.]
173 ur-šanabi ana šâšū-ma izak[kara ana gilgāmeš] 173
Ur-šanabi [spoke] to him, [to Gilgameš:]
174 … gilgāmeš [l]iqe išt[ēn parīsa] 174
‘…, Gilgameš, take [the first punting-pole!]
175 mê mūti qātka ay iltapit … […] 175
do not let your hand be touched by the Waters of Death, (for) you will [lame it]
176 šinâ šalša u rebâ gilgāmeš liqe par[īsa] 176
Take a second, a third and a fourth punting-pole, Gilgameš!
177 ŋanša šušša u sebâ gilgāmeš liqe parī[sa] 177
take a fifth, a sixth and a seventh punting-pole, Gilgameš!
178 samanâ tišâ u ešrâ gilgāmeš liqe parīs[a] 178
Take an eighth, a ninth and a tenth punting-pole, Gilgameš!
179 ištenšerâ šinšerâ gilgāmeš liqe parīs[a] 179
take an eleventh and a twelfth punting-pole, Gilgameš!’
180 ina šinā šūši gilgāmeš ugdammera par[īsī] 180
At one hundred and twenty double-furlongs Gilgameš ran out of punting-poles,
181 u šū ipṭur qabalšu [ur-šanabi] 181
Then he, [Ur-šanabi,] undid his clothing.
182 gilgāmeš iŋtamaṣ ṣubās[su] 182
Gilgameš stripped off [his] garment,
183 ina kappīšu karâ ušaq[qi] 183
out of his arms he made a high yard-arm.
184 ūta-napišti ana rūqi inaṭṭal[aššum-ma] 184
Ūta-napišti was watching [him] in the distance,
185 uštammâ ana libbīsu amāta i[zzakkar] 185
talking to himself he [spoke] a word.
186 itti ramānīšū-ma šū i[mtallik] 186
He [was taking counsel] in his own mind:
187 minâ ŋuppû ša eleppi [šūt abnī] 187
‘Why are the boat’s [Stone Ones] smashed,
188 u lā bēlaša rakib [elīša] 188
and aboard [it] one who is not its master?
189 ša illakam-ma ul yāʾu amēlu 189
He who comes is no man of mine,
190 u imna … […] 190
but on the right … […]
191 anaṭṭalam-ma ul yāʾ[u amēlu] 191
I am looking – he is no [man of] mine,
192 anaṭṭalam-ma u[l yāʾu amēlu?] 192
I am looking – he is no [man of mine]
193 anaṭṭalam-ma […] 193
I am looking – […]
194 […] y]âsi … […] 194
[…] me […]’
195 […] … […]
(The remainder of MS NinNA1a col. iv, about 25 lines of tablet, is missing, leaving a gap of at least that in the text. Much of it is filled by MS KalNA1 col. ii.)
196 ul yāʾu […] 196
‘No [man] of mine […,]
197 ušarpadu […] 197
caused to roam […]
198 malāŋu […] 198
The boatman […,]

199 amēlu ša ana[ṭṭala ul …] 199
the man that I am [watching is not …]
200 ša anaṭṭala ul … […] 200
that I am watching is not […]
201 pīqā-mâ ṣēru … […] 201
maybe the wilderness […]
202 … […] 202
… […]
203 u[r]na […] … […] 203
the pine … […]'
204 gilgāmeš ana kāri i[ṭḫe …] 204
Gilgameš drew [near] to the quay […]
205 ušērid-ma … […] 205
he sent down … […]
206 u šū īlâ-[m]a? … […] 206
and he, he came up and he… […]
207 gilgāmeš ana šâ[šū-m]a izakka[r ana ūta-napišti] 207
Gilgameš said to him, [to Ūta-napišti:]
208 libluṭ ūta-napišti mār ubar-t[utu (…)] 208
[Long] live Ūta-napišti, son of Ubar-[Tutu (…)!]
209 […] … arki abūbi ša ana … […] 209
[…] … after the Deluge which for … […]
210 abūbu mīnâ ana … […] 210
the Deluge, what for … […?]
211 […] … […] 211
[…] … […]
212 [ūta-napišti a]na šâšū-m[a izakk]ara an[a gilgāmeš] 212
[Ūta-napišti spoke] to him, to [Gilgameš:]
213 [ammīni aklā] lē[tā]ka qud[dudū pānūka] 213
‘[Why are] your cheeks [hollow, your face] sunken,
214 [l]u[mm]un li[bb]a[ka q]atû [zīmūka] 214
[your mood] wretched, [your features] wasted?
215 ibaš[š]i nis[sa]tu ina k[aršīka] 215
(Why) is there sorrow in [your heart,]
216 ana ālik arḫi rūq[ati pānūka mašlū] 216
[and your face like] one who has travelled a distant road?
217 ina šarbi u ṣēti [qummû pānūka] 217
[(Why is it) your face is burnt] by frost and sunshine,
218 u pān labbi šakn[ātā-ma tarappud ṣēra] 218
and [you roam the wild] got up like a lion?’
219 gilgāmeš ana šâšū-m[a izakkar ana ūta-napišti] 219
Gilgameš [spoke] to him, [to Ūta-napišti:]
220 ammīni lā aklā lētā[ya lā quddudū pānūʾa] 220
‘Why should [my] cheeks not be hollow, [my face not sunken,]
221 lā lummun libbī lā qat[û zī]mūʾa 221
my mood not wretched, my features not wasted?
222 lā ibbašši nissat[u ina ka]ršīya 222
Should there not be sorrow [in] my heart,
223 ana ālik arḫi rūqat[i pānū]ʾa lā mašlū 223
and my [face] not be like one who has travelled a distant road?
224 ina šarbi u ṣēti l[ā qumm]û pānūʾa 224
[Should not] my face be [burnt] by frost and sunshine,
225 u [p]ān labbi lā šaknā[kū-ma lā ar]appud ṣēra 225
and [should I not] roam the wild got up like a lion?
226 ibrī kūdanu ṭar[du akkannu ša šad]î nimru ša ṣēri 226
My friend, a mule on the run, [donkey of the uplands,] panther of the wild,
227 [enkīdu ibrī] kūdanu ṭar[du akkannu ša šadî nimru ša ṣēri]
227
[my friend Enkidu,] a mule on the run, [donkey of the uplands, panther of the wild:]
228 ša ninnemdū-[ma nīl]û šadû 228
[we it was] who joined forces [and] climbed the mountain country,
229 alâ ni[ṣbatū-ma a]lâ ninâru 229
[seized] the Bull of Heaven [and] killed the Bull of Heaven,
230 [nuš]alp[itu ḫumbāba ša ina qiš]ti erēni ašbu 230
destroyed [Humbaba, who] lived [in the] Cedar Forest,
231 [ina nērebēti ša šadî nidū]ku nēšī 231
killed lions [in the mountain passes.]
232 [ibrī ša arammūšu danniš ittīya ittallak]u kalu marṣāti 232
[My friend, whom I love so deeply, who with me went through] every danger,

233 [enkīdu ibrī ša arammūšu danniš ittīya itt]allaku kalu marṣāti
233
[my friend Enkidu, whom I love so deeply, who with me] went through every danger:
234 [ikšudaššu šīmat amēlūti] 234
[the doom of mankind overtook him,]
235 [šeššet urrī u sebe mūšāti] elīšu abki 235
[for six days and seven nights] I wept over him.
236 [ul addinšu an]a qebēri 236
[I did not give him up for] burial,
237 [adi tûltu imquta ina app]īšu 237
[until a maggot fell from] his [nostril.]
238 [ādur …] 238
[Then I was afraid that I too would die,]
239 mūta apl[aḫ-ma arappud ṣē]ra 239
I grew [fearful] of death, [and so roam the] wild.
240 [amāt ibrīya kabt]at? elīya 240
The case of [my friend was too much] for me [to bear,]
241 urḫa rūqat[a arappud ṣēr]a 241
so on a distant road [I roam the] wild.
242 amāt e[nkīdu] ibrīya (kabtat? elīya) 242
The case of my friend Enkidu [was too much for me to bear,]
243 ḫarrāna rūqa[ta arappud ṣēra] 243
so on a distant path [I roam the wild.]
244 kīkī [l]uskut kīkī luqūl [anāku] 244
[(For) I,] how could I stay silent? How could I stay quiet?
245 ibrī ša arammu ītemi ṭiṭṭiš 245
My friend, whom I love, has turned to clay,
246 enkīdu ibr[ī ša arammu ītemi ṭiṭṭiš] 246
my friend Enkidu, [whom I love, has turned to clay.]
247 [anāk]u ul kī šâšū-mâ anillam-ma 247
[Shall] not I be like him and also lie down,
248 ul atebbâ dūr d[ār] 248
never to rise again, through all [eternity?],
249 gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana ūta-napišti 249
Gilgameš said to him, to Ūta-napišti:
250 [anā]ku umma lullik-ma ūta-napišti rūqa ša idabbubūš lūmur
250
‘I thought, “I will go and find Ūta-napišti the Far-Away, of whom people talk,”
251 [a]sḫur allika‡ kalīšina mātāti 251
again I went journeying through all the lands.
252 ētettiqa‡ šadî marṣūti 252
I passed time and again over arduous mountains,
253 u ētetebbira kalīšina tâmāti 253
and I crossed time and again all the seas.
254 šitta ṭābta ul išbû pānūʾa 254
My face did not have enough of sweet sleep,
255 uštēziq ramānī ina dalāpi 255
I scourged myself by going sleepless.
256 šerʾānīya nissata umtalli 256
I kept filling my sinews with pain;
257 [m]inâ aktešir ina mānaḫ[tīya] 257
what have I achieved by [my] toil?'
258 ana lēt sābīti ul akšudam-ma lubuštī iqti 258
I had not reached as far as the ale-wife and my clothing was worn out.
259 [adū]ka asa būṣa nēša nimra mindina 259
[I killed] bear, hyena, lion, panther, cheetah,
260 ayyala turāḫa būla (u) nammaššâ ša ṣēri 260
deer, ibex, the animals and game of the wild,
261 šīrīšunu akkal maškīšunu uṭab[baḫ] 261
to eat their [meat] and flay their pelts.
262 ša nissati līdilū bābša 262
May they bar the gate of sorrow,
263 ina kupri u ittê lip[ḫû? bābša?] 263
may [they seal its doorway] with bitumen and asphalt!
264 aššu yâši mēlula lā … […] 264
For my sake they shall [interrupt] the dancing no more,
265 [(aššu)]‡ yâši ḫaddiʾu … […] 265
(because of) me, happy and carefree, they will… […]’
266 ūta-napišti ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana [gilgāmeš] 266

Ūta-napišti spoke to him, to [Gilgameš:]
267 ammīni gilgāmeš nissata mārat ā[ni …] 267
Why, Gilgameš, […] sorrow, the daughter of Anu?
268 ša ina šīr ilī u amēlūti ballāt[a] 268
[You], who are a mix of divine and human flesh,
269 ša kīma abīka u ummīka īpu[šūnikka?]‡ 269
whom they [made] like your father and your mother!
270 matīma gilgāmeš ana lilli īpuš ē[kalla] 270
Did they ever, Gilgameš, build a [palace] for the fool,
271 kussâ ina puḫri iddû tišab iqbû[šu] 271
place a throne in the council, and tell [him,] “Sit!”?
272 nadnaššu ana lilli šuršummī [šikari?] kīma ḫimēti šamnu gunnu 272
To a fool (only) the dreg of beer is given, instead of ghee, cheap oil.
273 tuḫḫī u kukkuša kīma […] 273
bran and grist instead of [best flour.]
274 labiš mašḫanda kīma […] 274
‘He is clad in a rag, instead of [fine garments,]
275 u šâšu kīma‡ nēbeḫi eb[iḫ …] 275
instead of a belt, he is girt [with old rope,]
276 aššu lā īšû mā[likī? …] 276
Because he has no advisers [to guide him,]
277 amāt milki lā īš[û …] 277
(because) he has no words of counsel […,]
278 īši rēšīšu gi[lgāmeš …] 278
Have thought for him, Gilgameš, […,]
279 […] … bēlšunu mala š[a …] 279
[who is] their master, as many as …?
280 […] … […]
281 […] sîn u il[ū mušīti? …] 281
[…] the moon and the gods [of the night …]
282 [ina] mūši sîn illak […] 282
[At] night the moon travels […,]
283 [dal]pū-ma ilū […] 283
the gods stay awake and […]
284 ēru lā sākipu … […] 284
Wakeful, unsleeping, […,]
285 ultu pān šakin … […] 285
from olden times it is established […]
286 attā kupud-ma … […] 286
‘Now consider […]
287 tappûtka … […] 287
your support…
288 šumma gilgāmeš bīt ilī zān[inšu? …] 288
If, Gilgameš, the temples of the gods [have no] provisioner,
289 bīt ištarāti … […] 289
The temples of the goddesses … […]
290 šina … ilī […] 290
They […] …, the gods […,]
291 ana … […] … īpuš … […] 291
for … […] he made […]
292 […] ana qīšti … […] 292
[…] for a gift he […,]
293 […] inamdû […] 293
[…] they will throw down […]’
294 […] … […]
(The text of MS BabNB2 breaks off here. About 17 lines of tablet are missing between the end of MS NinNA1 col. v at l. 227. Since MS NinNA1c is now less constrained for space it is unlikely to have doubled up many lines of poetry, and it is probable that we must assume there to be an overlap between the fragmentary end of MS BabNB2 col. v and the equally poorly preserved first extant lines of MS BabNB1 col. vi.)
292’ […] … 292’
[…] …
293’ [… k]aršīšu 293’
‘[…] his heart,
294’ […] … zānina 294’
[…] provisioner,
295 […] … amēlūta 295
[…] mankind,

296 [… i]lqû ana šīmtīšu 296
[Enkidu indeed] they took to his destiny.
297 [… t]addalip mīnâ talqe 297
‘[But you,] you toiled away, and what did you achieve?
298 [ina d]alāpi tunna[ḫa ramānka?] 298
You are exhausting [yourself with] ceaseless toil,
299 šerʾānīka nissata tumalla 299
you are filling your sinews with pain,
300 rūqūti tuqarr[ab] ūmīka 300
bringing nearer the end of your life.
301 amēlūtu ša kīma qanê api ḫaṣpu šumšu 301
Man is one whose progeny is snapped off like a reed in the canebrake:
302 eṭla damqa ardata damiqta 302
the comely young man, the pretty young woman,
303 u[rruḫiš …] … išallal mūtu 303
all [too soon in] their very [prime] death abducts (them).
304 ul mamma mūta immar 304
No one sees death,
305 ul mamm[a ša mūti i]mmar pānīšu 305
no one sees the face [of death,]
306 ul mamma ša mūti rigmašu [išemme] 306
no one [hears] the voice of death:
307 aggu mūtu ḫāṣip amēlūti 307
(yet) savage death is the one who hacks man down.
308 im-matī-ma nippuša‡ bīta 308
At some time we build a household,
309 im-matī-ma niqannana qinna 309
at some time we start a family,
310 im-matī-ma aḫḫū izuzzū (zitta) 310
at some time the brothers divide,
311 im-matī-ma zērūtu ibbašši ina māti 311
at some time feuds arise in the land.
312 im-matī-ma nāru iššâ(m-ma) mīla ubla 312
At some time the river rose (and) brought the flood,
313 kulīlu iqqeleppâ ina nāri 313
the mayfly floating on the river.
314 pānūša inaṭṭalū pān šamši 314
Its countenance was gazing on the face of the sun,
315 ultu ullânum-ma ul ibašši mimma 315
then all of a sudden nothing was there!
316 šallu u mītu kī (pî) aḫāmiš-ma 316
The abducted and the dead, how alike they are!
317 ša mūti ul iṣṣirū ṣalamšu 317
They cannot draw the picture of death.
318 lullâ mītu ul ikruba ina māti 318
The dead do not greet man in the land.
variant₁: lullû amēlu edil ultu ikrubū […]
319 anunnakū ilū rabûtu paḫrū 319
The Anunnaki, the great gods, were in assembly,
320 mammītu bānât šīmti ittīšunu šīmatu išī[m-ma] 320
Mammītum, who creates destiny, made a decree with them:
variant₁: mammītu bānât šīmtīšu‡ išīm-ma!
321 ištaknū‡ mūta u balāṭa 321
death and life they did establish,
322 ša mūti ul uddû ūmīšu 322
the day of death they did not reveal.’

XI

1 gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana ūta-napišti rūqi 1
Gilgameš spoke to him, to Ūta-napišti the Far-Away.
2 anaṭṭalakumma ūta-napišti 2
‘As I look at you, Ūta-napišti,
3 minâtūka ul šanâ kī yâtī-ma attā 3
your form is not different, you are just like me,
4 u attā ul šanâta kī yâtī-ma‡ attā 4
you are not different at all, you are just like me.
5 gummurka libbī ana epēš tuqunti 5
I was fully intent on doing battle with you,

6 […] … aḫī nadât(a) elu ṣērīka 6
[but] in your presence my hand is stayed.
7 [att]ā kīkī tazziz-ma ina puḫur ilī balāṭa tešʾû 7
How was it you attended the gods' assembly, and found life?'
8 [ū]ta-napišti ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana gilgāmeš 8
Ūta-napišti spoke to him, to Gilgameš:
9 luptēka gilgāmeš amāt niṣirti 9
'I will disclose to you, Gilgameš, a secret matter,
10 u pirišta ša ilī (ana) kâša luqbīka 10
and I will tell you a mistery of the gods.
11 šurippak ālu ša tīdûšu attā 11
The city of Šuruppak – a city you yourself know,
12 [ālu ša ina kiš]ād puratti šaknu 12
the [city that] is situated on the [banks] of the Euphrates–
13 [āl]u šū labir-ma ilū qerbuš(šu) 13
that city was old and the gods were within it,
14 [an]a šakān abūbi ubla libbašunu ilū rabûtu 14
(when) the great gods decided to cause the Deluge.
15 [it]mā-ma abūšunu ānu 15
Their father Anu took the oath,
16 mālikšunu qurādu ellil 16
their counsellor, the hero Enlil;
17 [g]uzallûšunu ninurta 17
their chamberlain, Ninurta,
18 gugallašunu ennugi 18
their inspector of waterways, Ennugi
19 niššīku ēa ittīšunu tamī-ma 19
With them the Prince Ea was under oath likewise,
20 amāssunu ušannâ ana kikkiši 20
(but) repeated their words to a reed fence:
21 kikkiš kikkiš igār igār 21
"Reed fence, reed fence! Brick wall, brick wall!
22 kikkišu šimē-ma igāru ḫissas 22
Listen, O reed fence! Pay heed, O brick wall!
23 šuruppakû mār ubār-tutu 23
O man of Šuruppak, son of Ubār-Tutu,
24 uqur bīta bini eleppa 24
demolish the house, build a boat!
25 muššir mešrâmma šeʾi napšāti 25
Abandon riches and seek survival!
26 [m]akkūra zēr-ma napišta bulliṭ 26
Spurn property and save life!
27 šūlī-ma zēr napšāti kalāma ana libbi eleppi 27
Put on board the boat the seed of all living creatures!
28 eleppu ša tabannûši attā 28
The boat that you are going to build,
29 lū mindudā‡ minâtūša 29
her dimensions should all be matching:
30 [l]ū mitḫur rupussa u mūrakša 30
her breadth and length should be the same,
31 [k]īma apsî šâši ṣullilši 31
cover her with a roof, like the Apsû".
32 [a]nāku īdē-ma azakkara ana ea bēlīya 32
I understood and spoke to Ea my master:
33 [amg]ur bēlī ša taqbâ attā kīam 33
"I hereby concur, my lord, with what you told me thus.
34 [at]taʾid anāku eppuš 34
[I] have paid attention; I shall do it.
35 [kī-m]i lūpul āla ummāna u šībūti 35
(But) how should I answer the city, the crowd and elders?
36 ea pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi 36
Ea opened his mouth to speak,
37 izakkara ana ardīšu yâtu 37
saying to me, his servant:
38 u attā kīam taqabbâššunūti 38
"Then also you will say to them as follows:
39 [mi]ndē-ma yâši ellil izērannī-ma 39
For sure the god Enlil has conceived a hatred of me!
40 [u]l uššab ina ālī[ku]nū-ma 40

I cannot dwell in your city!
41 [ina] qaqqar ellil ul ašakkan[a šēp]īyā-(ma) 41
I cannot tread on Enlil’s ground!
42 [urr]ad-ma ana apsî itti ēa [b]ēlīya ašbāku 42
[I shall] go down to the Apsû, to live with Ea, my master;
43 [ana k]âšunu ušazna[n]akkunūši nuḫšam-ma 43
he will rain down on you plenty!
44 [ḫiṣib] iṣṣūrāti puzur nūnī-ma 44
[An abundance] of birds, a riddle of fishes!
45 […] … mešrâ ebūram-ma 45
[…] … riches (at) harvest-time!
46 ina šēr(i) kukkī 46
In the morning he will rain down on you bread-cakes,
47 ina līlâti ušaznanakkunūši šamût kibāti 47
in the evening, a torrent of wheat.’”
48 mimmû šēri ina namāri 48
At the very first light of dawn,
49 ina bāb atar-ḫasīs ipaḫḫur mā[tu] 49
the population began assembling at Atra-hasīs’s gate.
50 naggāru naši pā[ssu] 50
The carpenter was carrying [his] axe,
51 atkuppu naši ab[anšu] 51
the reed-worker was carrying [his] stone,
52 agasilikka[šu naši? malāḫu?] 52
[the shipwright bearing his] heavyweight axe
53 eṭlūtu … […] 53
The young men were…[…,]
54 šībūtu izabbilū pitilta 54
the old men were bearing rope of palm-fibre.
55 ša(r)rû naši kupra 55
The rich man was carrying bitumen,
56 lapnu … ḫišiḫta ubla 56
the pauper brought the […] tackle.
57 ina ḫamši ūmi attadi būnāša 57
On the fifth day I set in place her (outer) surface:
58 ikû kippassa ešer nindanā šaqqâ igārātūša 58
one “acre” was her area, ten rods each her sides stood high,
59 ešer nindanā imtaḫir kibir muḫḫīša 59
ten rods all round was the diameter of her roof.
60 addi lānša! šâši ēṣirši 60
I set in place her body, I drew up her design:
61 urtaggibši ana šeššīšu 61
I gave her six decks,
62 aptarassi ana sebêšu 62
I divided her into seven parts,
63 qerbīssa aptaras ana tišêšu 63
I divided her interior into nine.
64 sikkāt mê (ina)‡ qablīša‡ lū amḫaṣ(si) 64
I struck the water pegs into her belly,
65 āmur parīsa u ḫišiḫta addi 65
I found a punting pole and put the tackle in place.
66 šalāš‡ šār kupra attabak ana kīri 66
Three myriad measures of bitumen I poured into the furnace,
67 šalšat šār iṭṭâ attadi ana libbi 67
three myriad of tar I tipped inside,
68 šalšat šār ṣābū nāš sussullī ša izabbilū šamnu 68
three times a myriad was the oil that the workforce of porters was fetching,
69 ezub‡ šār šamni ša īkulu niqqu 69
apart from the myriad of oil that libation consumed,
70 šittā šār šamna‡ [(ša)]‡ upazziru malāḫu 70
there were two myriads of oil [that] the shipwright stowed away.
71 ana lā mīni uṭṭabbiḫ alpī 71
I slaughtered countless oxen,
72 ašgiš immērī ūmišam-ma 72
every day I slaughtered sheep.
73 sīrīša kurunna šamna u karāna 73
Beer, ale, oil and wine
74 ummānī-ma aṭḫud[a?] kīma mê nārim-ma 74
I lavished on my workforce like the waters of a river

74a […] …
75 isinna ippušū kī ūmī akītim-ma 75
They were celebrating as on the feast-days of the New Year itself!
76 šamš[u i]na napāḫi ana piššati qātī addi 76
At sun-rise I set my hand to the oiling;
77 [lā]m šamši rabê eleppu gamrat 77
[before] sundown the boat was finished.
78 […] šupšuqū-ma 78
[...] were very difficult:
79 girimadê nittabbalu eliš u šapliš 79
Poles for the slipway we kept moving from back to front,
80 [adi? … ill]ikū šinipâssu 80
[until] two thirds of [the boat had entered the water].
81 mimma īšû eṣēnši 81
[Everything I had] I loaded aboard it,
82 mimma īšû eṣēnši kaspa 82
I loaded aboard it whatever silver I had,
83 mimma īš[û] eṣēnši ḫurāṣa 83
I loaded aboard it whatever gold I had,
84 mimma īš[û eṣē]nši zēr napšāti kalāma 84
I loaded aboard it whatever seed I had of living things, each and every one.
85 uštēli a[na] libbi eleppi kala kimtīya u sallatīya 85
All my kith and kin I sent aboard the boat,
86 būl ṣēri umām ṣēri mārī ummânī kalīšunu ušēli 86
I sent aboard animals of the wild, creatures of the wild, persons of every skill and craft.
87 adanna šamaš iškunam-ma 87
Šamaš had set me a deadline–
88 ina šēr(i) ku[kk]ī ina lilâti ušaznanu šamût kibāti 88
“In the morning he will rain down bread-cakes on us, in the evening a torrent of wheat.
89 erub-ma ana [li]bbi eleppim-ma piḫe bābka‡ 89
Go into the boat and seal your hatch!”–
90 adannu šū iktalda 90
“That time had arrived:
91 ina šēr ku[kk]ī ina lilâti ušaznana(na) šamût kibāti 91
“In the morning he will rain down bread-cakes, in the evening, a torrent of wheat.”
92 ša ūmi attaṭal būnāšu 92
I watched the look of the weather:
93 ūmu ana itaplusi puluḫta īši 93
The weather was frightening to behold;
94 ērub ana libbi eleppim-ma apteḫe bābī 94
I went into the boat and sealed my hatch.
95 ana pēḫî ša eleppi ana puzur-ellil malāḫi 95
To the man who sealed the boat, to the ship-wright Puzur-Enlil,
96 ēkalla attadin adi būšêšu 96
I gave the palace with all its goods.
97 mimmû šēri ina namāri 97
At the very first light of dawn–
98 īlâm-ma ištu išid šamê urpatu ṣalimtu 98
there came up from the horizon a black cloud,
99 addu ina libbīša irtammam-ma‡ 99
within it did Adad bellow continually.
100 šullat u ḫaniš illakū ina maḫri 100
Šullat and Haniš were going at the fore,
101 illakū guzalû šadâ u māta 101
“throne-bearers” travelling over mountain and land.
102 tarkullī errakal una[ssaḫ]‡ 102
Errakal was ripping out the mooring poles;
103 illak ninurta miḫrī ušardi 103
Ninurta, as he went, made the weirs overflow.
104 anunnakkū iššû dipārāti 104
The Anunnaki bore torches aloft,
105 ina namrirrīšunu uḫammaṭū māta 105
setting the land aglow with their brilliance.
106 ša adad šuḫarrassu ibāʾu šamê 106
The still calm of the storm-god passed against the sky,
107 [mi]mma namru ana da[ʾu]m[mat(i)] utterru 107
all that was bright was turned into gloom.
108 [irḫ]iṣ māta kīma alp[i …] … iḫp[ēši] 108
[He] charged the land like a bull [on the rampage,] he smashed [it] in pieces [like a vessel of

clay]
109 ištēn ūma meḫ[û] abūbu … […] 109
for one day the gale (and) the flood [flattened the country,]
110 ḫanṭiš izīqam-ma […] … šadâ a[būbu] 110
Quickly it blew, and [then came] the [Deluge.]
111 kīma qabli eli nišī ubâʾu [kašūšu] 111
like a battle [the cataclysm] passed over(!) the people.
112 ul immar aḫu aḫāšu 112
One person could not see another,
113 ul ūtaddâ nišū ina kar[āši]‡ 113
Nor people recognize each other in the destruction.
114 ilū iptalḫū‡ abūbam-ma 114
Even the gods took fright at the Deluge!
115 ittaḫsū ītelû ana šamê ša ānu 115
They withdrew, they went up to the heaven of Anu.
116 ilū kīma kalbī kunnunū ina kamâti rabṣū 116
The gods curled up like dogs, lying out in the open.
117 išassi ištar kīma‡ ālitti‡ 117
The goddess, screaming like a woman in childbirth,
118 unambi‡ bēlet-ilī ṭābat rigma 118
Bēlet-ilī, the sweet-voiced, wailed aloud:
119 ūmu ullû ana ṭiṭṭi lū itūr-ma 119
“Indeed the past has truly turned to clay,
120 aššu‡ anāku ina puḫur‡ ilī aqbû lemutta 120
because I spoke evil in the assembly of the gods.
121 kī aqbi ina puḫur‡ ilī lemutta 121
How was it I spoke evil in the assembly of the gods,
122 ana ḫulluq nišīya qabla aqbī-ma 122
(and) declared a war to destroy my people?
123 anāku(m)-ma ullada nišūʾā-ma 123
It is I that gave birth (to them)! They are my people!
124 kī mārī nūnī umallâ tâmtam-ma 124
(Now) like so many fish they fill the sea.”
125 ilū šūt anunnakkī bakû ittīša 125
The gods, the Anunnaki, were weeping with her,
126 ina nurub nissati bak[û ittīša] 126
wet-faced with sorrow, they were weeping [with her],
variant₁: ilū ašrū ašbū ina bikīti
127 šabbā‡ šaptāšunu leqâ buḫrēti 127
their lips were parched, being stricken with fever.
128 šeššet urrī u (sebe) mušâti 128
For six days and (seven) nights,
129 illak šāru abūbu meḫû isappan māta 129
was blowing the wind, the Deluge, the gale laying flat the land.
variant₁: illak šāru rādu meḫû ab[ūbu …]
130 sebû ūmu ina kašādi 130
When the seventh day arrived,
131 ittaraq meḫû [abūbu …] 131
the gale relented, [the Deluge ended].
variant₁: teriq šū abūbu qabla
132–133a ša imtaḫṣu kīma ḫayyalti inūḫ tâmtu 132–133a
(133a) The sea grew calm, (132) that had fought like a woman in labour,
133b ušḫarrir-(ma) imḫullu abūbu ikla 133b
the tempest grew still, the Deluge ended.
134 appalsam-ma‡ ūma‡ šakin qūlu 134
I looked at the weather, and there was quiet,
135 u kullat tenēšēti itūrā ana ṭiṭṭi 135
but all the people had turned to clay.
136 kīma ūri mitḫurat ušallu 136
The flood plain was level like a roof.
137 apte nappašam-ma ṣētu imtaqut eli dūr appīya 137
I opened a vent, and sunlight fell on the side of my face.
138 uktammis-ma attašab abakki 138
I fell to my knees and sat there weeping,
139 eli dūr appīya illakā dīmāya 139
the tears streaming down the side of my face.
140 appalis kibrāti pāt(u) tâmti 140
I scanned the shores, the edge of the sea,
141 ana erbēšerâ‡ ītelâ nagû 141

in fourteen places emerged a landmass.
142 ana šadî nimuš ītemid eleppu
On Mount Nimuš the boat ran aground,
143 šadû nimuš eleppa išbat-ma ana nâši ul iddin
Mount Nimuš held the boat fast and did not let it move.
144 ištēn ūma šanâ ūma šadû nimuš eleppa išbat-ma ana nâši ul iddin
One day, a second day, Mount Nimuš held the boat fast and did not let it move,
145 šalša ūma rebâ ūma šadû nimuš eleppa išbat-ma ana nâši ul iddin
a third day, a fourth day, Mount Nimuš held the boat fast and did not let it move,
146 ḫamša (ūma) šešša ūma šadû nimuš eleppa išbat-ma ana nâši ul iddin
a fifth, a sixth, day, Mount Nimuš held the boat fast and did not let it move.
147 sebû ūmu ina kašādi
When the seventh day arrived —
148 ušēṣī-ma summata umaššar
I brought out a dove, setting it free:
149 illik summatu īpiram-m[a]‡
Off went the dove, …
150 manzāzu ul īpâššim-ma‡ issaḫr[a]
No perch was available for it, so it came back to [me].
151 ušēṣī-ma sinunta umaš[š]ar
I brought out a swallow, setting it free:
152 illik sinuntu īpira[m-ma]‡
Off went the swallow, …
153 manzāzu ul īpâš[ši]m-ma‡ issaḫra
No perch was available for [it], so it came back to me.
154 ušēṣī-ma arēba umaššar
I brought out a raven, setting it free:
155 illik arēbu(m)-ma qarūra ša mê īmur-ma
Off went the raven and it saw the waters receding.
156 ikkal išaḫḫi itarri ul issaḫra
So it could eat, scratch, peck (food), and did not come back to me.
157 ušēṣī-ma ana erbet šārī attaqi niqâ(ti)
I brought out an offering and sacrificed to the four corners of the earth,
158 aškun surqinna ina muḫḫi ziqqurrat šadî
I strewed incense on the peak of the mountain.
159 sebet u sebet adagurra uktīn
Seven flasks and seven I set in position,
160 ina šaplīšunu attabak qanâ erēna (u) as[a]
below them I heaped up (sweet) reed, cedar and myrtle.
161 ilū īṣinū irīša
The gods smelled the savour,
162 ilū īṣinū irīša ṭāba
the gods smelled the sweet savour,
163 ilū kīma zumbē eli bēl niqî iptaḫrū
the gods gathered like flies round the sacrificer.
164 ultu ullânum-ma bēlet-ilī ina kašādīša
As soon as Bēlet-ilī arrived,
165 išši zumbē rabûti ša ānu īpušu kī ṣūḫīšu
she lifted aloft the great flies that Anu had made when he wooed (her):
166 ilū annûtu lū uqnî kišādīya
“O gods, let these be lapis lazuli (beads) around my neck,
167 ūmī annûti luḫsusam-ma ana dāriš ay amši
so that I remember these days and never forget them!
168 ilū lillikūni ana surqinni
Let the gods come to the incense,
169 ellil ai illika ana surqinni
(but) may Enlil not come to the incense,
170 aššu lā imtalkū-ma‡ iškunu abūbi
because he lacked counsel and caused the Deluge,
171 u nišīya imnû ana karāši
and delivered my people into destruction.”
172 ultu ullânum-ma ellil ina kašādīšu
As soon as Enlil arrived,
173 īmur eleppam-ma īteziz ellil
Enlil saw the boat and grew angry.
174 libbāti imtali ša ilī igīgī

He was filled with rage against the Igigi gods:
175 ayyānum-ma uṣi napištu 175
“[From] where escaped (this) living creature?
variant₁: ayyum-ma uṣi napištu
176 ay ibluṭ mamman ina karāši 176
No man should survive the destruction!”
177 ninurta pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi 177
Ninurta opened his mouth to speak,
178 izakkar(a) ana qurādi ellil 178
saying to the hero Enlil:
179 mannum-ma ša lā ēa amāta ibanni 179
“Who, if not Ea, can accomplish (such) things?
180 u ēa īdē-ma kala šipri 180
For Ea alone knows (how to do) all tasks,”
181 ēa pâšu īpuš-ma iqabbi 181
Ea opened his mouth to speak,
182 izakkar ana qurādi ellil 182
saying to the hero Enlil:
183 attā apkal ilī qurādu 183
“You, the sage of the gods, the hero,
184 kīkī lā tamtalik-ma‡ abūba taškun 184
how could you lack counsel and cause the deluge?
185 bēl arni‡ emid ḫīṭāšu 185
On him who commits a sin, inflict his crime!
186 bēl gillati emid gillas[su] 186
on him who does wrong, inflict [his] wrong-doing!
187 rummi ay ibbatiq šudud ay irmu 187
Slack off, lest it be snapped! Pull taut, lest it become [slack!]
188 ammaku taškunu abūba 188
Instead of the Deluge you caused,
189 nēšu litbâm-ma nišī liṣaḫḫ[ir] 189
a lion could arise to diminish the people!
190 ammaku taškunu abūba 190
Instead of the Deluge you caused,
191 barbaru litbâm-ma nišī liṣa[ḫḫir] 191
a wolf could arise to diminish the people!
192 ammaku taškunu abūba 192
Instead of the Deluge you caused,
193 ḫušaḫḫu lišša kin-ma māta liš[giš] 193
a famine could happen to slaughter the land!
194 ammaku taškunu abūba 194
Instead of the Deluge you caused,
195 erra litbâm-ma māta‡ lišgiš 195
Erra could arise to slaughter the land!
196 anāku ul aptâ pirišti ilī rabûti 196
I did not myself disclose the great gods’ secret;
197 atra-ḫasīs šunata ušabrīšumma pirišti ilī išme 197
I let Atra-ḫasīs see a dream and so he heard the gods’ secret.
198 eninnā-ma milikšu milku 198
And now, consider what is to be done with him.”
199 īlâm-ma ellil‡ ana libbi eleppi 199
Enlil came up into the boat,
200 iṣbat qātīyā-ma uštēlânni yâši 200
he took hold of my hands and brought me out.
201 uštēli uštakmis sinništī ina idīya 201
He brought out my woman, he made her kneel at my side,
202 ilput pūtnī-ma izzaz ina birīni ikarrabannâši 202
he touched our foreheads, standing between us to bless us:
203 ina pāna ūta-napišti amēlūtum-ma 203
“In the past Ūta-napišti was (one of) mankind,
204 eninnā-ma ūta-napišti u sinništašu lū emû kīma‡ ilī nâšim-ma 204
but now Ūta-napišti and his woman shall be like us gods!
205 lū ašib-ma ūta-napišti ina rūqi ina pî nārāti 205
Ūta-napišti shall dwell far away, at the mouth of the rivers!”
206 ilqûʾinnī-ma ina rūqi ina pî nārāti uštēšibūʾinni 206
They took me and settled me far away, at the mouth of the rivers.
207 eninnā-ma ana kâši mannu ilī upaḫḫarakkum-ma 207
But now, who will bring the gods to assembly for you,

208 balāṭa ša tubaʾʾû tuttâ attā 208
so you can find the life you search for?
209 gana ē tattīl šeššet urrī u sebe mušâti 209
Come, for six days and seven nights do not sleep!’
210 kīma ašbū-ma ina birīt purīdīšu 210
As soon as he sat down on his haunches,
211 šittu kīma imbari inappuš elīšu 211
sleep was wafting over him like a fog.
212 ūta-napišti ana šâšim-ma izakkar ana marḫītīšu 212
Ūta-napišti spoke to her, to his wife:
213 amrī eṭla ša īrišu balāṭa 213
‘See the fellow who demanded life!
214 šittu kīma imbari inappuš elīšu 214
sleep is wafting over him like a fog.’
215 marḫīssu ana šâšum-ma izakkar ana ūta-napišti rūqi 215
His wife spoke to him, to Ūta-napišti the Far-Away:
216 lupussū-ma liggeltâ amēlu 216
‘Touch him, let the man awake!’
217 ḫarrān illika litūr ina šulmi 217
(By) the road he came let him go back in safety,
218 abul uṣâ litūr ana matīšu 218
(by) the gate he came out let him return to his land!’
219 ūta-napišti ana šâšim-ma izakkar ana marḫītīšu 219
Ūta-napišti spoke to her, to his wife:
220 raggat amelūtu iraggigki 220
‘Being deceitful, mankind will deceive you.
221 gana epî kurummātīšu šitakkanī ina rēšīšu 221
Go, bake his daily rounds of bread, line them up by his head,
222 u ūmī ša ittīlu ina igāri eṣrī 222
and mark on the wall the days that he slept.’
223 šī īpi kurummatīšu ištakkan ina rēšīš[u] 223
She baked his daily rounds of bread, she lined them up by his head,
224 u ūmī ša ittīlu ina igāri uddâššu 224
and on the wall noted for him the days that he slept.
225 ištât šābulat kurummassu 225
His first round of bread was dried up,
226 šanītu muššukat šaluštu raṭbat 226
the second was leathery, the third was soggy;
227 rebūtu ipteṣi kamānšu 227
His fourth flour-cake had turned white,
228 ḫamuštu šīpa ittadi 228
the fifth had produced a (mouldy) stain;
229 šeduštu bašlat 229
the sixth was fresh-baked,
230 sebūtu ina pēttim-ma ilpussū-ma i(te)ggeltâ amēlu 230
the seventh was on the coals: he touched him and the man awoke.
231 gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana ūta-napišti rūqi 231
Gilgameš spoke to him, to Ūta-napišti the Far-Away:
232 annimiš šittu irḫû elīya 232
‘No sooner than sleep spilled over me,
233 ḫanṭiš taltaptannī-ma taddakânni attā 233
than forthwith you touched me and roused me!’
234 ūta-napišti a[na šâšū-ma] [izakkar]a ana gilgāmeš 234
Ūta-napišti [spoke to him,] to Gilgameš
235 a[lkam-ma? gilgām]eš munâ kurummātīka 235
Come, Gilgameš, count me your rounds of bread,
236 [u ūmī? ša tattī]lu lū edâkka kâša 236
and may [the time that you slept] be made known to you.
237 [ištât šābulat] kurummatka 237
Your [first round] of bread [was dried up]
238 šanītu [muššu]kat šaluštu raṭbat 238
the second was leathery, the third was soggy;
239 rebūtu ipteṣi kamānka 239
your fourth flour-cake had turned white,
240 ḫamuštu šīpa ittadi šeduštu bašlat 240
the fifth had produced a (moudly) stain, the sixth was fresh-baked;
241 [sebūtu in]a pēttim-ma tetteggeltâ attā 241
[the seventh was on] the coals, and then you awoke.’
variant₁: [sebūtu ina pētt]im-ma alputka anāku

242 gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkar ana ūta-napišti rūqi 242
Gilgameš spoke to him, to Ūta-napišti the Far-Away:
243 [kīk]ī lūpuš ūta-napišti ayyikâ(ni) lullik 243
How should I go on, Uta-napisti? Where should I go?
244 [šīrī]ya? uṣṣabbitu ekkēmu 244
The Thief has taken hold of my [flesh.]
245 ina bīt mayyālīya ašib mūtu 245
In my bed-chamber Death abides,
246 u ašar [pānīya?] luškun šū mūtum-ma 246
and wherever I might turn [my face], there too will be Death.’
247 ūta-napišti ana [šâšū]-ma izak[k]ara ana ur-šanābi malāḫi
247
Ūta-napisti spoke to [him,] to the boatman Ur-šanābi:
248 ur-šanābi kā[ru l]iddīka nēberu lizērka 248
‘Ur-šanābi, may the quay reject you, may the ferry scorn you!
249 ša ina aḫīša tattallaku aḫša zumme 249
You who used to walk on its shore, suffer absence from it!
250 amēlu ša tallika pānāssu 250
The man that you led here,
251 iktasû malû pagaršu 251
whose body is tousled with matted hair,
252 maškū uqtattû dumuq šīrīšu 252
the beauty of whose flesh the hides have ruined,
253 leqēšū-ma ur-šanābi ana namsê bilšū-ma 253
take him, Ur-šanābi, get him to the washtub,
254 malêšu ina mê kīma elli limsi 254
let him wash his matted hair as clean as can be!
255 liddi maškīšū-ma libil tâmtu 255
Let him cast off his hides and the sea carry (them away)!
256 ṭāba ṣupu zumuršu 256
Soak his body so fair!
variant₁: ṭāba lū ṣapû zumuršu
257 lū uddušǂ parsīguǂ ša qaqqadīšu 257
Let the kerchief of his head be renewed!
258 tēdīqaǂ lū labiš ṣubat bāltīšu 258
Let him be clad in a royal robe, the attire befitting his dignity!
259 adi illaku ana ālīšuǂ 259
Until he goes (home) to his city,
260 adi ikaššadu ana urḫīšu 260
until he arrives at (the end of) his road,
261 tēdīqu šīpa ay iddī-(ma) edēšu līdiš 261
let the robe show no stain but stay brand new!’
262 ilqēšū-ma ur-šanābi ana namsê ubilšū-ma 262
Ur-šanābi took him and got him to the washtub.
263 malêšu ina mê kīma elli imsi 263
He washed his matted hair as clean as can be,
264 iddi maškīšū-ma ubil tâmtu 264
He cast off his hides [and] the sea carried (them away).
265 ṭāba iṣṣapi zumuršu 265
His body so fair was soaked,
266 ūteddi[š parsīgu ša qa]qqadīšu 266
the [kerchief of] his head was renewed,
267 tēdīqa labiš ṣubat bāltīšu 267
he was clad in a royal robe, the attire befitting his dignity.
268 adi illaku [ana ālīšu] 268
‘Until he goes (home) [to his city,]
269 (adi) ikaššadu ana urḫīšu 269
until he arrives at (the end of) his road,
270 [tēdīqu šīpa ay idd]ī-ma edēšu līdiš 270
let [the robe show no stain] but stay brand new!’
271 gilgāmeš u ur-šanābi irkabū eleppa 271
Gilgames and Ur-šanābi boarded the boat,
272 m[agil]la iddû šūnu irtakbū 272
they launched the [craft,] they crewed it themselves.
273 marḫīssu izakkara ana ūta-napištiǂ rūqi 273
His wife spoke to him, to Uta-napišti the Far-Away:
274 gilgāmeš illika ināḫa išūṭa 274
‘Gilgames came here, toiled, exerted himself,
275 mīnâ tattannaššum-ma itâr ana mātīšu 275

what have you given him as he goes back to his land?'
276 u šū išši parīsa gilgāmeš 276
And he, Gilgameš, raised the punting-pole,
277 eleppa uṭṭeḫḫâ ana kibri 277
he brought the boat close to the shore
278 ūta-napišti ana šâšū-ma [izakkara an]a gilgāmeš 278
Ūta-napišti [spoke] to him, to Gilgameš:
279 gilgāmeš tallika tanāḫa tašūṭa 279
‘You came here, Gilgameš, toiled, exerted yourself,
280 mīnâ attannakkum-ma tatâr ana mātīka 280
what have I given you as you go back to your land?
281 lupte gilgāmeš amāt nişirti 281
I will disclose, Gilgameš, a secret matter,
282 u pirišta [ša ilī kâša lu]qbīka 282
and [I will] tell you a mystery of [the gods.]
283 šammu šū kīma eddett[i šikinšu š]ak[i]n 283
It is a plant, its [appearance] is like box-thorn,
284 siḫilšu kīma amurdinnim-ma usa[ḫḫal qātīk]a? 284
its thorn is like the dog-rose’s, it will [prick your hands.]
285 šumma šamma šâšu ikaššadā qātāka 285
If you can gain possession of that plant,
286 […] 286
[you’ll be again as you were in your youth.]’
287 gilgāmeš annīta ina šemêšu 287
When Gilgameš heard this,
288 ipti r[āṭa …] 288
he opened a [channel] …
289 urakkis abnī kabtūt[i ina šēpīšu] 289
Heavy stones he tied [on his feet,]
290 ildudūšū-ma ana aps[î …] 290
they dragged him down to the Apsû […]
291 šū ilqe šammam-ma iss[uḫšu …] 291
He pulled the plant, and pulled [it up and lifted it,]
292 ubattiq abnī kabtūt[i ina šēpīšu] 292
he cut loose the heavy stones [from his feet.]
293 tâmtu issukaššu ana kibrīša! 293
The sea cast him up on its shore.
294 gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana ur-šanābi malāḫi 294
Gilgameš spoke to him, to Ur-šanābi the boatman:
295 ur-šanābi šammu annû šammu nikitti 295
‘Ur-šanābi, this plant is the “plant of the heart-beat”,
296 ša amēli ina libbīšu ikaššadu napšassu 296
by which means a man can recapture his vitality.
297 lubilšu ana libbi uruk supūri 297
I will take it to Uruk the sheepfold,
298 lūšakil šībam-ma šamma lultuk 298
I will feed some to an old man and put the plant to the test.
299 šumma šību işṣaḫir amēlu 299
If the old man grows young (again),
300 anāku lūkul-ma lutūr ana ša ṣuḫrīyā-ma‡ 300
I will eat some myself and go back to how I was in my youth!'
301 ana ešrā bēr iksupū kusāpa 301
At twenty leagues they broke bread,
302 ana šalāšā bēr iškunū nubatta 302
at thirty leagues they pitched camp.
303 īmur-ma būra gilgāmeš ša kaṣû mûša 303
Gilgameš found a pool whose water was cool,
304 urid ana libbim-ma mê irammuk 304
he went down into it to bathe in the water.
305 ṣerru īteṣin nipiš šammi 305
A snake smelled the fragrance of the plant,
306 [šaqumm]iš īlâm-ma šamma išši 306
[silently] it came up and bore the plant off;
307 ina târīšu ittadi qulipta 307
as it turned away it sloughed a skin.
308 ina umīšū-ma gilgāmeš ittašab ibakki 308
Then Gilgameš sat down weeping,
309 eli dūr appīšu illakā dīmāšu 309
the tears streaming down the side of his face.

310 … […izakka]r ana ur-šanābi malāḫi 310
… [He spoke] to Ur-šanābi the boatman:
311 [ana ma]nnīya ur-šanābi ināḫā idāya 311
‘[For whom] of my (kind), Ur-šanābi, did my arms grow exhausted,
312 ana mannīya ībal dāmu libbīya 312
for whom of my (kind) ran dry the blood of my heart?
313 ul aškun dumqa ana‡ ramnīy[a] 313
Not for myself did I establish a bounty,
314 ana nēši ša qaqqari dumqa ētepuš 314
[for] the “Lion of the Earth” I have done a favour.
variant₁: […ass]akan …
315 eninna ana ešrā bēr edû inaššâm-ma 315
Now for twenty leagues the tide has been rising!
variant₁: [eninna ana ešrā bēr i]naššâ edû
316 rāṭa kī aptû attabak unūtī 316
When I opened the channel I abandoned the tools:
317 utta ayyīta ša ana ittīya i[ššа]knu anāku lū aḫḫis 317
what thing would I find that was placed (to serve) for my landmark? Had I only turned away,
variant₁: […] … issīya ša[kn]u
318 u eleppa ētezib ina kibri 318
and left the boat on the shore!'
319 ana ešrā b[ē]r iksupū kusāpa 319
At twenty leagues they broke bread,
variant₁: […] kasāpa!
320 ana šalāšā bēr iškunū nubatta 320
at thirty leagues they pitched camp.
321 ikšudūnim-ma ana libbi uruk supūri 321
They arrived in Uruk the Sheepfold.
322 gilgāmeš ana šâšū-ma izakkara ana ur-šanābi malāḫi 322
Gilgameš spoke to him, to Ur-šanābi the boatman:
323 elī-ma ur-šanābi ina muḫḫi dūri ša uruk (supūri) itallak
323
‘Go up, Ur-šanābi, on to the wall of Uruk and walk around,
324 temmenna ḫīṭ-ma libitta ṣubbi 324
survey the foundation platform, inspect the brickwork!
325 šumma libittašu lā agurrat 325
(See) if its brickwork is not kiln-fired brick,
326 u uššīšu lā iddû sebet muntalkū 326
and if the Seven Sages did not lay its foundations!
327 šār ālu šār kirâtu šār essû pitir bīt ištar 327
One šār is city, one šār date-grove, one šār is clay-pit, half a šār the temple of Ištar:
328 šalāšat šār u pitir uruk tamšīḫu 328
three šār and a half (is) Uruk, (its) measurement.’

XII

1 ūma pukku ina bīt nagāri lū ēz[ib] 1
“Today, had I only left the ball in the carpenter’s workshop!
2 [aššat nagāri kī umm]i ālittīya lū [ēzib] 2
[O carpenter’s wife who is like the mother] who bore me! Had I only [left it!]
3 m[ārat nagāri ša kī a]ḫātī[ya ṣ]eḫḫerti l[ū ēzib] 3
O [carpenter’s daughter who is like my] little sister! Had [I only left it!]
4 ūma pu[kku] ana erṣeti imq[utanni] 4
Today [the] ball fell down to the Netherworld,
5 mikkê(ʾa) ana erṣeti i[mqutanni-(ma)] 5
my mallet fell [down] to the Netherworld!’
6 [e]nkīdu gilgāmeš i[ppalšu?] 6
Enkidu [answered] Gilgameš:
7 bēlī mīnâ tabki libbaka [lemun] 7
‘My lord, why did you weep, your heart being [vexed]?
8 ūma pukka ultu erṣeti anāku uš[ellâkka] 8
Today I myself shall [bring you] the ball up from the Netherworld,
9 mikkê ultu erṣeti anāku uše[llâkka] 9
I myself shall [bring you] your mallet up from the Netherworld!’
10 gilgāmeš enkīdu [ippal?] 10
Gilgameš [answered] Enkidu:·
11 šumma ana erṣeti [turrad] 11
‘If [you are going to descend] to the Netherworld,
12 ana aširtīya [lū tašaddad] 12

[you should pay heed to] my instructions!
13 ṣubāta zakâ [lā taltabbiš] 13
[You must not dress in] a clean garment,
14 kīma ubārātā-ma uʾadd[ûka] 14
they will identify [you] as a stranger!
15 šaman pūri ṭāba lā tappaši[š] 15
You must not anoint yourself with sweet oil from the flask,
16 ana irīšīšu ipaḫḫurūka 16
at the smell of it they will gather around you!
17 tilpāna ana erṣeti lā tanassuk 17
You must not hurl a throwstick at the Netherworld,
18 ša ina tilpāni maḫṣū ilammûka 18
those struck by the throwstick will surround you!
19 šabbiṭa ana qātīka lā tanašši 19
You must not carry a staff in your hand,
20 eṭemmū iʾarrurūka 20
the shades will tremble before you!
21 šēnī ina šēpīka lā tašên 21
You must not wear sandals on your feet,
22 rigma ana erṣeti lā tašakkan 22
you must not make a noise in the Netherworld!
23 aššatka ša tarammu lā tanaššiq 23
You must not kiss the wife you love,
24 aššatka ša tazerru lā tamaḫḫaṣ 24
you must not strike the wife you hate,
25 mārāka ša tarammu lā tanaššiq 25
you must not kiss the son you love,
26 mārāka ša tazerru! lā tamaḫḫaṣ 26
you must not strike the son you hate,
27 tazzimti erṣeti i[ṣ]abbatka 27
the outcry of the Netherworld will seize you!
28 ša ṣallat ša ṣallat ummi ninazu ša ṣallat 28
The one who lies, the one who lies, the mother of Ninazu who lies,
29 būdāša ellētu ṣubāta ul kuttumā 29
her gleaming shoulders are not draped in a garment,
30 irassa kī pūr šappati lā šaddat 30
her breast, uncovered, (is) like a jar of stone.’
31 [enkīdu ana erṣeti] urrad 31
[Enkidu,] descending [to the Netherworld,]
32 [ana aširti gilgāme]š ul išdud 32
paid no heed [to the instructions of Gilgameš:]
33 ṣ[ubāta zakâ] ittalbiš 33
he dressed himself in [a clean garment,]
34 kīma ub[ārū-ma] uʾaddûšu 34
they identified him as a stranger.
35 šaman pūri ṭ[āba] ittapšiš 35
He anointed himself with sweet oil from the flask,
36 ana irīš[īšu] iptaḫrūšu 36
at the smell [of it] they gathered around him.
37 tilpāna a[na erṣeti] issuk-ma 37
He hurled a throwstick at [the Netherworld] and
37a eṭemmū ītarrū 37a
the shades trembled,
38 ša ina tilpāni [maḫṣū] iltamûšu 38
those [struck] by the throwstick surrounded him.
39 šabbiṭa ina qāt[īšu i]ššī-ma 39
He carried a staff in [his] hand and
40 [eṭemmū] ītarrū‡ 40
[the shades] trembled.
41 šēnī an[a šēpīšu išēn] 41
[He wore] sandals on [his feet,]
42 rigma [ina erṣeti ištakan] 42
[he made] a noise [in the Netherworld.]
43 aššass[u ša irāmu ittašiq] 43
[He kissed] the wife [he loved,]
44 [a]šš[assu ša] izēr[u imtaḫaṣ] 44
[he struck the] wife he hated,
45 m[ārāšu š]a irāmu! it[tašiq] 45
he [kissed the] son he loved,

46 mār[āšu š]a izēru imt[aḫaṣ] 46
he [struck the] son he hated,
47 tazz[im]ti erṣeti iṣṣabassu 47
the outcry of the Netherworld seized him!
48 ša ṣallat [ša ṣa]llat ummi ninazu ša ṣall[at] 48
The one who lies, the one who lies, the mother of Ninazu who lies,
49 būdāša ellēti ṣubāta ul kuttumā 49
her gleaming shoulders were not draped in a garment,
50 irassa kīma pūr šikkati ul šaddat 50
her breast, uncovered, (was) like a flask of stone.
51 inūš[ū-ma e]nkīdu ultu erṣeti ana e[lât]u? 51
Then Enkidu (did not come up) from the Netherworld to the (world) above.
52 namt[ar ul iṣbas]su asakku ul iṣbassu erṣe[tu iṣbass]u 52
Namtar [did not] seize him, Asakku did not seize him, the Netherworld [seized] him!
53 rāb[iṣ(u) nergal l]ā pādû ul iṣbassu erṣet[u iṣbass]u 53
The pitiless sheriff [of Nergal] did not seize him, the Netherworld [seized] him!
54 ašar t[āḫāz z]ikarī ul imqut erṣetu iṣbassu 54
He did not fall where men [do battle,] the Netherworld seized him!
55 inūš[ū-ma šarr]u mār ninsun ana ardīšu enkīdu ibakki 55
Then [the] king, son of Ninsun, weeping for his servant, Enkidu,
56 ana ēkur bīt ellil ēdiššīšu ittalak 56
went off alone to Ekur, the house of Enlil:
57 abu [elli]l ūma pukku ana erṣeti imqutannī-ma 57
‘O Father [Enlil], today the ball fell into the Netherworld,
58 mikkê ana erṣeti imqutannī-ma 58
my mallet fell into the Netherworld!
59 enkīdu ša ana šūlîš[unu urdu? erṣetu iṣbassu] 59
Enkidu, who [went down] to bring [them up, the Netherworld seized him!]
60 namtar ul iṣbassu asakku ul iṣbassu erṣetu iṣbassu 60
Namtar did not seize him, Asakku did not seize him, the Netherworld seized him!
61 rābiṣ(u) nergal lā pādû ul iṣbassu erṣetu iṣbassu 61
The pitiless sheriff of Nergal did not seize him, the Netherworld seized him!
62 [ašar tāḫā]z zikarī ul imqut erṣetu iṣbassu 62
He did not fall where men do battle, the Netherworld seized him!'
63 abu ellil amāta ul īpulšu 63
Father Enlil answered him not a word.
64 [ana ūri bīt sîn (ēdiššīšu?)] ittalak 64
He went off [(alone?) to Ur, the house of Sîn:]
65 abu sîn ūma pukku ana erṣeti imqutanni 65
‘O Father Sîn, today the ball fell into the Netherworld,
66 mikkê [ana erṣeti] imqutanni 66
my mallet fell [into the Netherworld]!
67 enkīdu ša ana šūlîš[unu urdu? erṣetu iṣbassu] 67
Enkidu, who [went down] to bring [them up], the Netherworld seized him!
68 namtar ul iṣbassu asakku ul iṣbassu erṣetu iṣbassu 68
Namtar did not seize him, Asakku did not seize him, the Netherworld seized him!
69 rābiṣ(u) nergal lā pād[û ul iṣbass]u erṣetu iṣbassu 69
The pitiless sheriff of Nergal [did not seize] him, the Netherworld seized him!
70 ašar [tāḫāz zikarī u]l imqut erṣetu iṣbassu 70
[He did n]ot fall [where men do battle], the Netherworld seized him!'
71 a[bu sîn amāta ul īpulšu] 71
Father [Sin answered him not a word.]
72 a[na erīdu bīt ēa (ēdiššīšu) ittallak] 72
[He went off (alone)] to [Eridu, the house of Ea:]
73 a[bu ea ūma pukku ana erṣeti imqutanni] 73
‘O [Father Ea, today the ball fell into the Netherworld,]
74 mik[kê ana erṣeti imqutanni] 74
[My] mallet [fell into the Netherworld,]
75 enkīd[u ša ana šūlîšunu urdu? erṣeti iṣbassu] 75
Enkidu, [who went down to bring them up, the Netherworld seized him!]
76 namtar u[l iṣbassu asakku ul iṣbassu erṣetu iṣbassu] 76
Namtar did not [seize him, Asakku did not seize him, the Netherworld seized him!]
77 rābiṣ(u) nergal lā pād[û ul iṣbassu erṣetu iṣbassu] 77
The pitiless sheriff of Nergal [did not seize him, the Netherworld seized him!]
78 ašar tāḫāz zik[arī ul imqut erṣetu iṣbassu] 78
[He did not fall] where men do battle, [the Netherworld seized him!]’
79 abu ēa i[na? …] 79
Father Ea [helped him] in [this matter,]
80 ana qarrādi e[ṭli šamaš iqabbi] 80

[he spoke] to Young Hero [Šamaš:]
81 qarrādu eṭlu šam[aš mār ningal …] 81
‘O Young Hero Šamaš, [... son of Ningal,]
82 lūman takkap [erṣeti tepette] 82
perhaps [you can open] a chink [in the Netherworld,]
83 utukku ša en[kīdu kī zāqīqi ulti erṣeti tušellâ] 83
[you can bring] the shade of Enkidu [up from the Netherworld like a phantom!],
84 ana am[āt‡ …] 84
To the word [of Ea ......]
85 qarrādu eṭlu šamaš mār nin[gal …] 85
The Young Hero Šamaš, [...] son of Ningal,
86 takkap erṣeti iptē-ma 86
opened a chink in the Netherworld,
87 utukka ša enkīdu kī zaqīqi ultu erṣeti uštēlâ 87
he brought the shade of Enkidu up from the Netherworld like a phantom.
88 innedrū-ma uttaššaqū 88
They hugged each other, kissing one another,
89 imtallikū ištanaʾʾalū 89
sharing thoughts and exchanging questions:
90 qibâ ibrī qibâ ibrī 90
‘Tell me, my friend! Tell me, my friend!
91 ûrti erṣeti ša tāmuru qibâ 91
Tell me the rules of the Netherworld that you saw!’
92 ul aqabbâkkum ibrī ul aqabbâkkum 92
‘I cannot tell you, my friend, I cannot tell you!
93 šumma ûrti erṣeti ša āmuru aqabbīka 93
if I am going to tell you the rules of the Netherworld that I saw,
94 [att]ā tišab biki 94
sit you down (and) weep!'
95 [anāk]u lušib-ma lubki 95
‘[(So)] let me sit down and weep!'
96 [ibrī? iš]ara ša talputū-ma libbaka iḫdû 96
‘[My friend, the] penis that you handled so your heart rejoiced,
97 [… kī guš]ūri labīri kalmatu ikkal 97
grubs devour [(it) … like an] old beam.
98 [ibrī? ūra ša ta]lputū-ma libbaka iḫdû 98
[My friend, the vagina that you] felt so your heart rejoiced,
99 [kī nigiṣ erṣet]i epera mali 99
it is filled with dust [like a crack in the ground.]’
100 [šū ūʾa] iqbīma [ina epri it]tapalsiḫ 100
‘[Woe!]’ said [he,] and threw himself prostrate [in the] dust.
101 [gilgāmeš ūʾa] iqbīma [ina epr]i ittapalsiḫ 101
‘[Woe!]’ said [Gilgameš,] and threw himself prostrate [in the dust.]
102 [ša mārūšu ištēn-ma tāmu]r ātamar 102
‘Did [you see the man with one son?]’ ‘I saw (him).
103 [sikkatu ina igārīšu ret]ât-ma [marṣiš] ina muḫḫi ibakki
103
[A peg is] fixed [in his wall] and he weeps over [it bitterly.]’
104 [ša mārūšu šinā-ma tāmur ā]tamar 104
‘[Did you see the man with two sons?’ ‘I] saw (him).
105 [ina šittā libnāti ašib-ma] akala ikkal 105
[He sits on two bricks] eating a bread-loaf.’
106 [ša mārūšu šalāšat-ma tāmuru] ātamar 106
‘[Did you see the man with three sons?]’ ‘I saw (him).
107 [ina nādi ša takšî] mê išatti 107
He drinks water [from a waterskin slung on the saddle.]’
108 [ša mārūšu erbet-ma tāmu]r ātamar 108
‘Did [you see the man with four sons?]’ ‘I saw (him).
109 [kī ša imēr ṣind]āti libbašu ḫadi 109
[Like the owner of a donkey]-team his heart rejoices.’
110 [ša mārūšu ḫamšat-ma t]āmur ātamar 110
‘Did you see [the man with five sons?]’ ‘I saw (him).
111 [kī ṭupšar]ri damqi issu petât 111
[Like a] fine [scribe] his hand is deft,
112 [išariš] ana ēkalli irrub 112
he enters the palace [with ease.]’
113 [ša mārūšu šeššet-ma t]āmur ātamar 113
‘Did you see [the man with six sons?]’ ‘I saw (him).
114 [kī errēši libbašu ḫadi] 114

[Like a ploughman his heart rejoices.]’
115 [ša mārūšu sebet-ma tāmur ātamar] 115
‘[Did you see the man with seven sons?’ ‘'I saw (him).]
116 [kī duppussê ilī ina kussî ašib … išemme] 116
[Among the junior deities he sits on a throne and listens to the proceedings.]’
117 [… tāmur ātamar] 117
‘[Did you see the palace eunuch?’ ‘I saw (him).]
118 kī šurinni damqi tub[qa] a[ḫi]z 118
Like a fine standard he is propped in the corner,
119 kī … […] … 119
like …’
(There follows a gap of no more than 9 lines.)
129 … […] 129
… […]
130 … […] 130
… […]
131 … […] 131
… […]
132 š[a … tāmur ātamar] 132
‘[Did you see] the one [who ... ?’ ‘I saw (him).]
133 a[na? …] 133
To […]’
134 š[a … tāmur ātamar] 134
‘[Did you see] the one [who...?’ ‘I saw (him).]
135 a[na? …] 135
To […]’
136 … […] 136
… […]
137 … […] 137
… […]
(There follows a gap of perhaps 6 lines.)
144 ša ina tarkulli maḫṣu tāmur ā[tamar] 144
‘Did you see the one who was struck by a mooring-pole?’ ‘I [saw (him).]
145 lūman ana ummī[šu u] ab[īš]u ina nasīḫ sikkāti [itt]analla[k]
145
Alas for his mother [and father!] When pegs are pulled out [he] wanders about.’
146 ša mūt ilīš[u imūtu t]āmur ātama[r] 146
‘Did you see the one who [died] a natural death?’ ‘[I saw (him).]
147 ina mayyāl [il]ī ṣalil-ma mê zakûti išatti 147
He lies drinking clear water on the bed of the [gods].’
148 ša ina tāḫāzi dīku tāmur āta[mar] 148
‘Did you see the one who was killed in battle?’ ‘I [saw (him).]
149 abūšu u ummašu rēssu našû‡ aššassu ina muḫḫīšu [ibakk]â[(šu)]
149
His father and mother honour his memory and his wife [weeps] over [(him).]’
150 ša šalamtašu ina ṣēri nadâ[t] tāmur ātamar 150
‘Did you see the one whose corpse was left lying in the open countryside?’ ‘I saw (him).
151 eṭemmašu ina erṣeti ul ṣalil-ma 151
His ghost does not lie at rest in the Netherworld.’
152 ša eṭemmašu pāqida lā īšû tāmur ātamar 152
‘Did you see the one whose ghost has no provider of funerary offerings?’ ‘'I saw (him).
153 šukkulāt diqāri kusīpāt akali ša ina sūqi nadâ ikkal 153
He eats the scrapings from the pot (and) crusts of bread that are thrown away in the street.’